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EDITORIAL

Kai Ekholm

The National Library of Finland earns its evaluation

The National Library of Finland prepared for its international evaluation with great expectations and respectful anticipation for nearly two years.

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Kai Ekholm, National Librarian, Professor

EDITORIAL

The National Library of Finland earns its evaluation



The National Library of Finland prepared for its international evaluation with great expectations and respectful anticipation for nearly two years. The final year was a busy and hectic time for the secretariat, which generated an impressive 500 pages of English-language text for the evaluation group. This project was preceded by a self-evaluation, requiring the participation of every member of the National Library community.

It is perhaps its labour-intensive nature that makes international evaluations such a rarity in other national libraries, with the exception of the largest institutions. It is clear that just undergoing the evaluation will be an inspiring example to other libraries. The first presentation of the evaluation process will be this autumn at the Conference of European National Librarians.

The most important result of the evaluation has been improved self-understanding for the National Library. The evaluation process alone was incredibly valuable, as it proved that the National Library wished to gain an objective view of its performance.

How did we ultimately benefit from the evaluation? We had great, perhaps excessive, expectations for this project. We tried to remind ourselves in advance that the evaluation group would not solve all our problems, nor would it act as an international court of justice which would decree all correct solutions for the past, present and future. The results of even the finest evaluation group are professional reflections and recommendations. We must find the solutions ourselves; the evaluation group cannot be held responsible for them.

I view [the recommendations of the international evaluation for the National Library of Finland](#) as analytical comments which support our operations.

The results of the evaluation were also certainly expected. We received notification well ahead of time that the evaluation group would not recommend that the National Library break away from the University of Helsinki. Many considered this to be a key issue, but the National Library staff were more reserved.

Permanent funding needed

The permanent operations of the National Library, such as digitisation, require permanent, significant funding. Our endurance is often tested to the very limit as we are made to compromise between different funding types and their periods. Stress among personnel can be traced to this: will my contract be extended, will digitisation and the digital library continue to receive funding?

Integrating the National Repository Library with the National Library must not become a deal breaker. We must consider the services we offer the public and the functionality of the library network. Personally, I see this as an opportunity to generate new services. Our Repository Library is highly esteemed abroad, and I was recently asked for details of our system.

Two proposals together supporting the National Library

At the same time another working group of the Ministry of Education and Culture integrates and streamlines the related official functions of the ministry. I believe it can be safely said that the official duties in this field have been scattered, and to a degree, the field has been troubled by the lack of cooperation. The National Digital Library project and its challenges, undertaken jointly by libraries, archives and museums, place us all in a new situation. The proposals of this working group included a suggestion that the National Library be separated from the University of Helsinki, and that the leadership of all memory institutions be integrated.

I consider these proposals to be constructive, and do not see a major conflict between them and the evaluation of the National Library. I feel we can study both reports side by side, take the best proposals and compare them with each other. The Board of the National Library is receptive to both proposals, and has left both avenues open. As our sole goal is the promotion of the National Library's operations, we may prepare for both options and assume that they can provide substantial new support and dynamism to our work.

Only one thing is certain: the responsibilities and results of the National Library are of such a high international standard that they have already been recognised in the evaluation, and we now have



Photo by Kari Timonen

more good proposals than we need. This evokes a positive thought: something is really happening.

This article references the following publications:

[International Evaluation of the National Library of Finland. Report of the evaluation panel. Reports of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland 2011:14](#)

[Memorandum of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland 2011:6](#)

Photo by Veikko Somerpuro

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The recommendations of the international evaluation for the National Library of Finland

1. The past achievements and coming challenges of the National Library require that direction and funding be reviewed in the future.
2. The autonomy of the National Library should be gradually strengthened within the university structure through the following measures: appointing an external chair of the board; increasing financial transparency between the University and the National Library; conducting ministry-level negotiations regarding national objectives and funding without the University; making University services visible in the performance agreement with the University; increasing management-level cooperation between the National Library and the Helsinki University Library.
3. Dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders should be continuously developed.
4. More permanent funding for digitisation should be organised; the National Digital Library should be included in the government platform and its funding secured; a governmental commitment to the funding of long-term preservation should be achieved.
5. The National Repository Library should be merged with the National Library of Finland.
6. Sufficient resources should be ensured for development projects while balance with the core duties is maintained.
7. Physical facilities and equipment should be upgraded.
8. A "Friends of the Library" association should be established.

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Ville Hänninen

The secret recipe of Finnish comics

What makes Finnish comics interesting to international readers? The secret of many Finnish comics lies in their ability to depict worlds where something is "wrong". This sense of something being out of place seems to be the reason for the success of many of our most popular comics.

The first Finnish daily newspaper cartoon was *Herra Pulliainen* by Akseli Halonen (*Helsingin Sanomat*, 1927–33). Most Finnish comics, which depend on topical issues or are just boringly conventional, tend to be forgotten. However, the grouchy anarchy personified by Pulliainen is something else. Halonen did not seek to educate children on how to live properly as many of the educational books and comics of the age did. Instead, he showed the world in all its grotesque glory. Pulliainen is a small, fat bundle of nerves with thinning hair, who cannot get along with his immediate surroundings. For all his lack of social graces, he is full of ideas. He pours a pot of hot water into the cold sea to make it warm enough for swimming. He tears at his head, and screws come loose. Irritated by his thinning hair, he solves the problem by drawing on a few more locks.

Herra Pulliainen could of course be thought of as traditional madcap humour with a small twist. Finnish underground comics from the 1960s and '70s, meanwhile, do not fit into the same category. During the 1960s, Finnish comics began to break free of their reputation as children's entertainment. The culture was in transition, as in many other countries. The walls between popular and high culture came tumbling down. While pop art brought everyday imagery into art, many comic artists included artistic influences into their work.

Timo Aarniala's (1945–2010) comics encompass all this at the same time: topical political commentary, slapstick humour and poetic stream of consciousness. Another key underground artist was Kalervo Palsa (1947–87). While barely published during his lifetime, this artist from Northern Finland has been a major influence in comics through his posthumously published, seemingly nihilistic and strange stories. Finnish comics have never shied away from the grotesque.

A typically northern frankness is apparent throughout; both in artistic and commercially successful comics. The most successful comic strips of this millennium are odd through and through. Juba Tuomola's *Viivi and Wagner* depicts the relationship between a woman and a pig. The cast of characters in Pertti Jarla's *Fingerpori* includes an exhibitionist, a double-entendre-spewing coffee lady – and Adolf Hitler.

A pipe is not just a pipe

Even though Juba Tuomola and Pertti Jarla have found commercial success, it is difficult to survive in Finland on comics alone. In a country with a population of five million, a comics industry has failed to materialise.

Cartoonists have no illusions about their future. They know that they will most likely have to do something else to make a living. This way, drawing comics can be both a job and a passion. The artist draws comics out of sheer personal inspiration. And since there is no money in comics in any case, any thought of compromise would essentially be pointless.

Nevertheless, or precisely because of this, Finnish comics have risen to new heights of both domestic and international acclaim during this century. There are more serious cartoonists around today than ever before. The best comics combine strong visuals with a robust story. One of the keywords of Finnish comics is defamiliarisation. If a cartoon character is smiling, they are probably crying on the inside. Nothing is as simple as it seems.

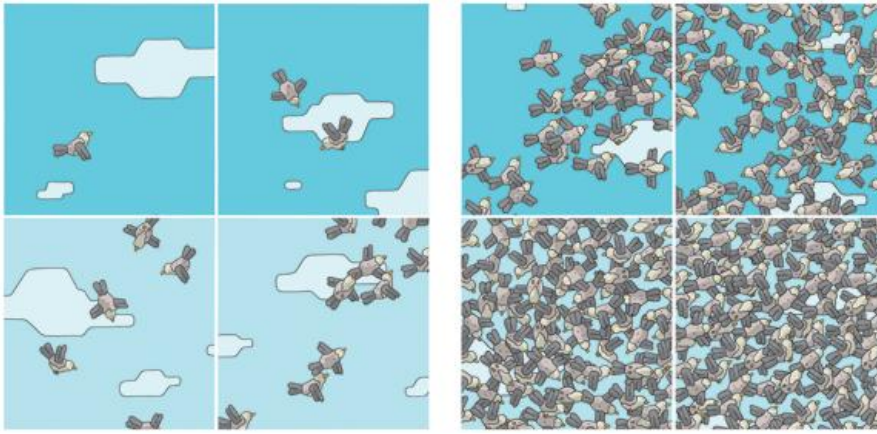
Tommi Musturi, the winner of this year's Puupäähattu award for Finnish comic artists, is in many ways typical of the Finnish comic avant-garde. He creates stories with few or no words, engaging the reader with imagery and unsettlingly bright colours. This type of intentional minor irritation is common among Finnish comic artists.

Marko Turunen's use of colour evokes a beautiful nightmare. Matti Hagelberg challenges his readers by subverting the established structures of narrative and page layout. The bent-over, downtrodden characters of Jyrki Heikkinen are meek but unyielding in the face of the toughest adversity.



Kekkonen

by Matti Hagelberg



Samuelin linnut by Tommi Musturi

Everyday absurdity

Many contemporary Finnish comics may seem somewhat unpleasant. Where do I laugh? Is this nihilism, black humour, or is the artist passing a stark moral judgement on the nature of humanity?

Often it is all of the above. For example, Marko Turunen's comics often seem cold on the surface. The language is laconic, as if from a news bulletin or a hospital report. Originally trained as a sculptor, comic artist Turunen often combines banal everyday aspects with surrealism. The albums *Tiskipäiväkirja* (2002) and *Kuolema kulkee kintereillä* (2004) include autobiographical elements, while the 2007 *Lihat puntarissa* features newspaper clippings from Turunen's father's wrestling career.

Many of Turunen's albums depict a world which is simultaneously fascinating and terrifying. People are seen as macabre creatures. We may not be prisoners of our subconscious, but we are certainly guided by it.

Finnish comics are not exclusively macabre, however. Many conjure an everyday dream-state instead of darker themes despite generating strange moods or peculiar worlds.

Jenni Rope, for example, describes the small details of everyday life like Scrooge McDuck would describe the details of his beloved bank notes, with warmth and sensitivity. Rope elevates ordinary life – like drying your hair or soaking in the tub – to previously unknown heights. Small things become huge and wonderful. The more time we spend attempting to solve the unsolvable, the stranger the mystery becomes. Similar themes – mystification of the conventional and praise for the powers of the imagination – can be found in the comics of Terhi Ekebom and J. Tilsa.

In and out of time

The white-collar elite of Finland identifies visibly with the moneyed factions of the United States and the gold-tinged circles of Central Europe. It devises reports on the brand-identity of Finland and "creative insanity" for its own purposes. Reading Finnish comics would provide a better foundation for such aspirations. Just beyond the marketing jargon and the Cheshire cat grins you can find artists who are the very personifications of creative insanity without subscribing to superficial nonsense.

One might even describe their works as controversial or political. When the defamiliarisation of the everyday is carried out with sufficient skill, it inevitably evokes thoughts in the reader. The stories often leave the reader with the unpleasant feeling – quite intentionally – that things in this world are not what they seem.

Art that speaks to us most strongly is art that is connected to our times but not dependent on it. A good example of this is Matti Hagelberg's 2010 masterpiece *Silvia Regina*. Hagelberg's heavy scratchboard technique contrasts with the ostensibly light narrative. It quickly becomes apparent, however, that the references to both popular and high culture are only the frosting on the cake. The stories cover both moral pathos and its parody – a very typical feature of Finnish comics.

One of the opening images of *Silvia Regina* features the "wonderful Christ of neo-liberalism" preaching: "Blessed are the greedy." His disciples bow to him and exclaim: "We're lovin' it!" They are presided over by a smiling Ronald McDonald sitting on a cloud.

Could there be a more precise description of the power corporate finance holds over western societies or the process through which reality – whatever that may mean – turns into signifiers of reality? Art can depict things we all know but of which we may not be aware, without lapsing into humourlessness or moralising.

Above all, Finnish comics are fun. They may be strange, but they are sharply funny. The humour may not be obvious, but it is always sharp.

To be honest – Finland is a bleak country. The weather is gray nine months of the year. During the darkest time of the year the sun does not come up until Finns are already at work. Come quitting time, the sun will already have gone down.

If this is what your future looks like and belief in the hereafter provides no help, you must find refuge in the imagination.

Ville Hänninen is a journalist specialising in comics as well as a non-fiction author and the

manuscript writer for the exhibition Revelry, rambunctiousness, rough stuff. He was the editor of the English-language Finnish Comics Annual 2011 (Huuda Huuda, 2011).

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Solja Järvenpää

Opinions and emotions – Finnish women in their comics

It is difficult to classify the specific features of Finnish women's comics, since the field of Finnish comics is very broad, with new styles and techniques constantly emerging. The most typical element in Finnish women's comics is a journal-like approach. Finnish women and girls use comics to express their emotions, worries and joys.

Women's everyday lives and emotions

Blogs have taught us to follow the fashion choices of strangers and discuss deeper feelings through always up-to-date entries. Similarly, blogs have provided inspiration and a new medium for comic artists.

Since 2005, different blogging sites have been filling with blog posts from female comic artists. Milla Paloniemi's Cursing Hedgehog started life as an Internet phenomenon, but her popular blog En vaan osaa! (I just can't) also paved the way and increased the readership for other blog-based comics.

Like many comic bloggers, Paloniemi gives readers the opportunity to follow her and take a peek into her everyday life. She is not afraid to show her feelings and vent her frustrations or moments of weakness through the blog. In the blog format, feedback is instant, and readers can discuss issues raised by the comics.

The autobiographical approach is not a phenomenon created by the blogs alone, it just suits the online environment generated by them. Perhaps the current reality television trend and hectic contemporary narratives help build a foundation for the popularity of comic blogs. Before the era of comic blogs, comics were not necessarily directly autobiographical. For example, Annukka Leppänen's *Anopin unelma*, Kati Närhi's *Hanki elämä* and Katja Tukiainen's *Tyttöjen leikit* all constructed their narratives around the everyday lives of women. The albums all have a strong autobiographical element, but their connection to reality may just be a part of the story.

Speak out and make a difference

The early 2000s saw several female cartoonists enter the industry through self-publication and anthologies. One of the most significant new female comic artists of the early millennium is Tiitu Takalo (Tuuli ja myrsky 2009, Kehä 2007). Takalo's work depicts life from a minority point of view and aggressively criticises prejudice. Her stories offer a natural view on activist and other alternative lifestyles. In 2001–2007 Takalo also published the *Irtoparta* comic magazine which focused on female cartoonists. *Irtoparta* used comics to provide an unflinching look at different female perspectives on socially generated roles.

Feminist thinking began to emerge during the 1990s, bringing the community of female cartoonists to the forefront. Inspired by the San Francisco magazine *Wimmen's Comix*, published from 1972 to 1992, the *Naarassarjat* anthology of female cartoonists was founded in 1992. *Naarassarjat* was mainly run by editor-in-chief Johanna "Röju" Rojola, who used the publication to create a forum for female cartoonists to express themselves. Female cartoonists could be confident that their everyday routines could be interesting, that comics could be political, and that their handiwork was beautiful.

At the female cartoonist seminar organised at the Päivälehti Museum in January 2011, every speaker mentioned Rojola at least once. Cartoonists Tiina Pystynen (*Lementanssit* 2009, *Leskikuningattaren muistelmät* 1993), Kaisa Leka (*Tour d'Europe* 2010, *I Am Not These Feet* 2003) and Miia Vistilä (*Rakkaat siskot*) voiced the thoughts of many female cartoonists in emphasising the significance of the change in the culture in the 1990s and how Johanna Rojola's work and participation helped the field take major strides forward.

These same female cartoonists have in turn inspired several new female comic artists. For example, Tiina Pystynen was one of the people running *Naarassarjat*, while Kaisa Leka and Miia Vistilä were both involved in creating its successor, *Nettinartut*, a comic website where female cartoonists could publish their work before the blogging era.

The not-quite-humble pioneers of female comics

Of course, Finnish women were drawing comics before the 1990s. In fact, the most significant Finnish comics were drawn by women. Toto Fogelberg, daughter of Ola Fogelberg who created the Pekka Puupää comic, continued her father's work and drew the comic from 1952 until 1975. Toto Fogelberg began to draw Pekka Puupää independently after her father's death, but even before then she worked as the letterer for the comic.

The Finnish comic character which has gained the most international recognition, the Moomintroll, was also the brainchild of a female cartoonist. Created by Tove Marika Jansson, the adventures of



Mari Ahokoivu.

Moomintroll are known around the world and have gained great popularity as far off as Japan.

The Moomins and Pekka Puupää are the spiritual ancestors of many Finnish comics. Many comics depicting everyday life can be seen to have the quarrelsome dynamic of Pekka Puupää and his wife Justiina at their core. Stories from the forest have been made into comics since the 1940s, and there has never been a need to go further than your backyard for ideas. Tove Jansson's delicate lines and watercolours are also familiar to many Finns. These visual treats and beautiful stories have been brought into Finnish homes in the form of bedtime stories and even sets of dishware. With this background, it is no wonder that our contemporary female artists are drawn to comics as their narrative form of choice.

What goes around comes around

The world is full of inspirations and influences for Finnish cartoonists, but the best role models and historical foundations for our female comic artists can be found in Finland.

Finnish female cartoonists jet-set confidently from one international comic festival to the next, creating contacts and even showing a good example of women's comics to countries with little recognition for comic art made by women.



Tove Jansson, 1945.

Even a Finnish manga artist raises no eyebrows. Aura Ijäs (Narulla, Animelehti and Japanpop) is one of the first Finnish manga artists who became well known among comic fans. Manga has become the technique of choice for many members of the up-and-coming female cartoonist generation. The next big female cartoonist may well combine elements of manga with those of Finnish women's comics. After all, the ur-Finnish Moomin have become a highly popular manga in Japan.

Solja Järvenpää is the Regional Artist for Comics appointed by the Arts Council of the Helsinki Metropolitan Region.

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Kirsi Aho

The National Library published the online version of the 1000-year-old Theorica Pantegni

Theorica Pantegni, a mediaeval medical textbook and manual in Latin, is Finland's oldest bound manuscript and one of the gems of the National Library collections. This 420-page manuscript in pre-Gothic script has now been digitised and transcribed, in other words, written in modern Latin letters for the whole world to read.

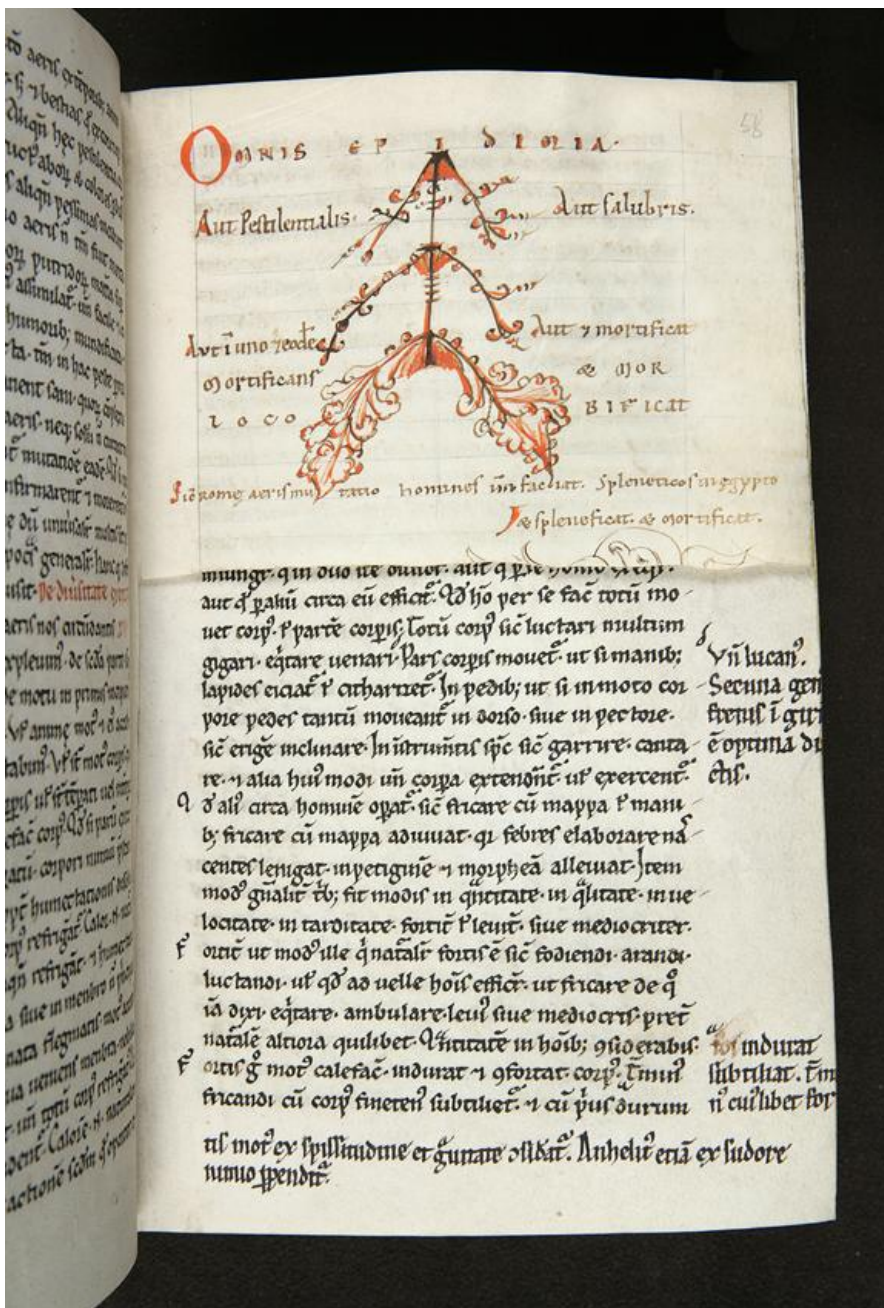
More than 70 manuscript versions of Theorica Pantegni exist in various parts of Europe, but none of them have ever been transcribed.

Outi Kaltio, MA, a scholar of Latin, transcribed the work over an 18-month period, and the result of her efforts was published online in June 2011 in both facsimile (i.e., photographs) and transcription (i.e., modern Latin text).

<http://www.doria.fi/handle/10024/69831>



Outi Kaltio (center) transcribed Theorica Pantegni.



420-page manuscript treasure was written on parchment.

Photo by Veikko Somerpuro

Background

The *Theorica Pantegni* is part of *Liber Pantegni* by Constantine the African (d. prior to 1098/9), which is the first comprehensive medical compendium written in Latin. Born in North Africa, Constantine lived as a monk in the Monte Cassino monastery in Italy. His work is an adapted translation of the Arabic original *al-Malaki* by the Persian physician Ali ibn al-Abbas (Haly Abbas), c. 930–994. This work was based on the tradition of ancient Greek medicine and had become the leading medical textbook and manual of the time in the Islamic world. Constantine's translation achieved similar status in the first medical schools and universities in Europe. The work was a revelation in mediaeval Europe, taking European medicine to a whole new level.

The National Library's 420-page manuscript treasure, Codex EÖ.II.14, was written on parchment in pre-Gothic script in the late 12th century. The manuscript eventually ended up in Russia in the medical book collection of Joseph von Rehmann, the personal physician of Nicholas I of Russia. After von Rehmann's death, the Tsar claimed his book collection and donated it in 1832 to the Helsinki University Library, which is now the National Library of Finland. The manuscript was bound in the 19th century, and the text on the back cover claims that it is a compendium of the medical works of Galen. Events took a turn when Professor Paul Lehmann from Munich visited Finland in 1937 and identified the manuscript as the work of Constantine the African.

In 2004 Matti Haltia, Professor Emeritus of Neuropathology, came across Constantine's work in the course of his research. Studying the manuscript, he found that Codex EÖ.II.14 was one of the oldest remaining manuscripts of *Theorica Pantegni*. When he also discovered that no printed academic publication or translation into a modern language existed of this, the first medical textbook in Europe, he decided to launch a publication project in 2006 together with Heikki Solin, Professor Emeritus of Latin Philology, and Outi Kaltio, MA, a young Latin scholar. Other remaining manuscripts of *Theorica Pantegni* have also been used in the editing process. So far, Outi Kaltio has personally studied some 60 manuscripts, and the research group has collected digital or microfilm copies of the most important of them. The texts of different manuscripts are compared and contrasted in order to create a critical edition and translation of the text for publishing.



The guests admired the online version of Theorica Pantegni published on June 16 2011.

"The Theorica Pantegni stresses that health represents a state of balance in the body, while illness results when that balance is disturbed. Treating the state of imbalance is highly individual, which means that treatments do not have the same effect on all people," explains Outi Kaltio, as she describes the impact of this 1000-year-old work on modern medicine.

The chief funders of the Theorica Pantegni publication project have included the Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation, the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, and the Academy of Europe.

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Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen

Polonica – a rich but neglected collection

The [Polonica Collection](#) of the Slavonic Library is one of the most versatile collections of the National Library of Finland. The collection and its historical dimension have been forgotten over the years, even though Polonica can offer a number of research themes from a time period spanning over two hundred years.

The Polonica Collection comprises publications in Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian, Slovakian, Sorbian, Polish and Czech. There are approximately 17,000 monographs included in the Collection, and nearly the same number of serial publications. The earliest works were printed in the beginning of the 19th century, and today the Collection continues to grow with approximately 800 titles annually, including publications published as parts of monograph series.

The creation of Polonica – in support of scholars

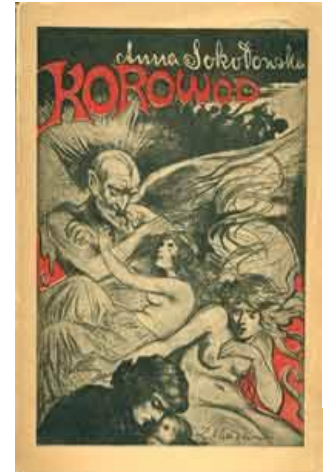
During the period 1828–1917 the National Library had the statutory right to receive a copy of every publication printed in Russia. These legal deposit copies received from the Kingdom of Poland, then part of Russia, form the foundation of the Polonica Collection. The exact founding date of the Collection is not known, but the Rector's reports from the academic years 1902–1905 mention that the establishment of such a collection into the Russian Library was well underway when officials in Warsaw began again to send Polish-language publications to Helsinki as required by the censorship regulations of the Russian Empire.

The motivation for establishing the Collection was related to the development of Slavonic studies at the University of Helsinki. Jooseppi Julius Mikkola was appointed docent of Slavonic philology at the Imperial Alexander University of Finland in 1895, and later appointed as professor extraordinaire in the discipline in 1900. In order to support the discipline, the Russian Library, then under the auspices of the University of Helsinki Senate, intended to gradually accumulate a small reference library including central works on all Slavonic peoples and their literature.

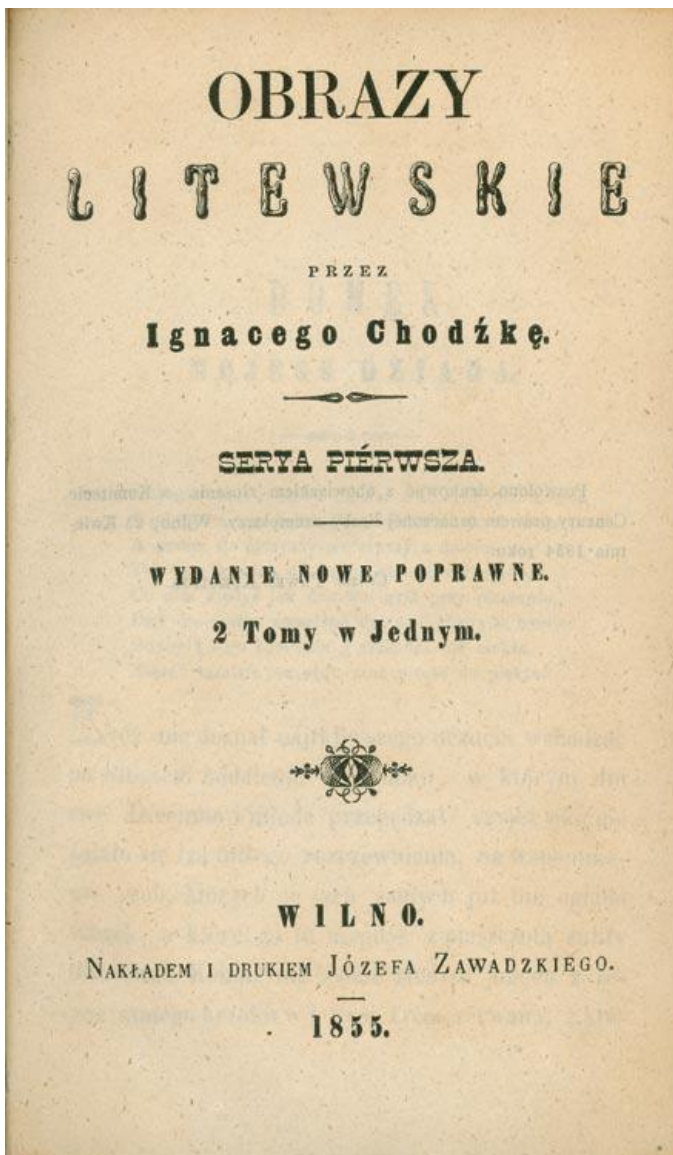
Personal relationships in the university community can also be seen to have influenced the establishment of the collection. Andrei Igelström, acting librarian of the Russian Library from 1900 (full librarian from 1902), had met Mikkola in the beginning of the 1890s. Igelström took several leaves of absence during his first years in office, leaving Mikkola to act in his place. It is not known whether it was the Vilnius-born Igelström or Mikkola who took the initiative to establish the collection, but the foundation of Polonica was certainly orchestrated by them.

Polonica materials from the legal deposit era

What types of materials are included in the Polonica Collection and what kinds of research topics does it offer? Polish-language literature printed in different parts of the Kingdom of Poland forms an interesting segment of the Collection's history. During the 19th century, most of the Polish-language literature collected through legal deposits arrived from Vilnius, Kiev, Mogilev and Piotrków in addition to St. Petersburg and Warsaw. Publications printed in Vilnius feature prominently, as the University of Vilnius held special significance in the divided Poland of the early 19th century. The Collection, however, includes only a few examples of scholarly literature from that time. The golden age of printing in Vilnius was in the 1830–1850s. Polonica comprises a total of over 650 titles from this time period, of which approximately 430 are from Vilnius. Most of the Vilnius publications comprise fiction and spiritual literature.



The cover of Anna Sokolowska's collection of short stories Korowód from 1910.



Ignacy Chodźka's Obrazy litewskie was published as five series in 1840-1850. These brief descriptions of the lives and habits of Vilnians were among the most popular literature of the era.

Most of the works acquired during the legal deposit era (1828–1917) in the Polonica Collection are works of fiction. Thus the Collection provides excellent opportunities for researching Polish literature from the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. From this considerable time period, the Collection includes works and series of collected works by key authors from the Polish literary canon of the era. Featured authors include the national poet of Poland, Adam Mickiewicz and his successors Alexander Fredro, Józef Ignacy Krasiński, Juliusz Słowacki, Zygmunt Krasiński and Nobel laureate Henryk Sienkiewicz, but also Polish female authors from the time of the nationalist awakening, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Maria Konopnicka and Klementyna z Tanskich Hoffmanowa.

The beginning of the 20th century was a time of rapid expansion of the Polonica Collection. During the last two decades of the legal deposit period, the collection acquired more than two thousand titles, mainly Polish-language fiction printed in Warsaw. The collection also features the more experimental genres of Polish short stories and poetry from the early 20th century.

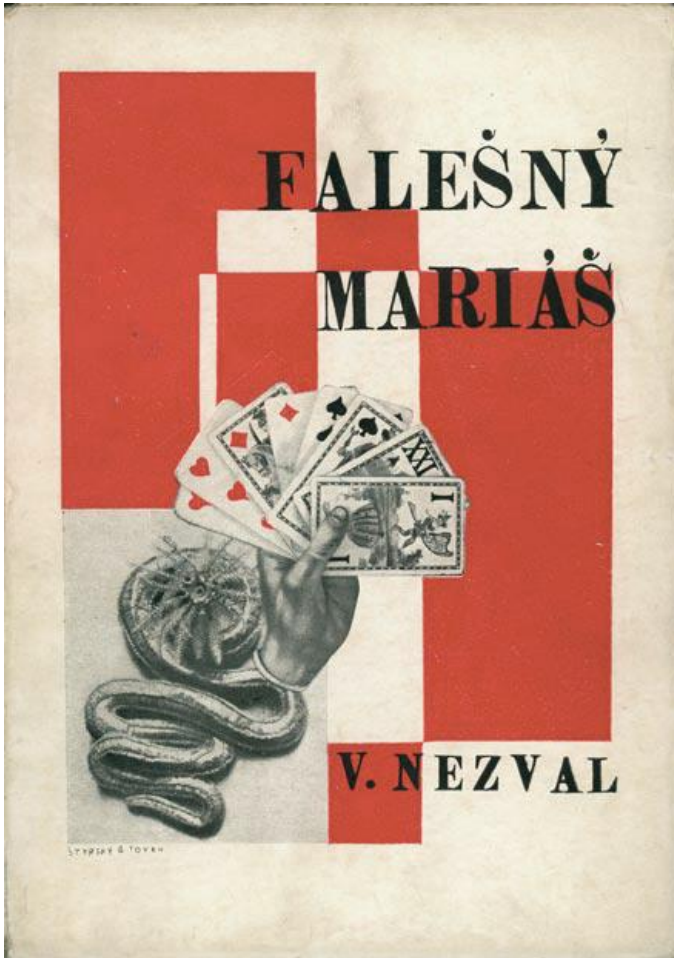
Literature printed before the year 1918 dominates the Polonica Collection with over 3,000 titles, nearly 2,200 of which were printed in Poland. Works printed in Lithuania number over 600, while works printed in countries that are currently known as the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and Russia number approximately one hundred for each country. The collection also includes some pre-1918 works in Slavonic languages acquired through donation or purchase, printed in Bosnia, the UK, Croatia, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia and the United States. When the older section (pre-1918) of Polonica was compared to the collection catalogues of the Lithuanian and Polish national libraries, Polonica was found to include approximately 300 Polish-language titles which could not be located in the catalogues of these national libraries. A closer comparison of the historical libraries in these countries and the Polonica Collection would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the uniqueness of the Polonica materials.

Approaching scholarship between the world wars

The Polonica Collection only features approximately 250–400 titles per decade from the interwar period. The expiration of the legal deposit right naturally contributed to the decrease in acquisitions, but focusing acquisitions more clearly on scholarly literature also played a part. During the time between the world wars, Prague became a centre of research in linguistics and Slavonic studies to which many Slavonic scholars from Finland maintained connections. It is thus not surprising that the history, folk poetry, folklore, and particularly linguistics of the Slavonic countries, so central to the discipline of Slavonic studies, feature most prominently in the collection. This more scholarly

direction is also reflected in the exchange agreements with research libraries focusing on Slavonic studies in the Polonica Collection's target countries, concluded in the 1920s and 1930s.

Even though there are few examples of interwar fiction, the collection features examples of the progressive imagery of the era – the work of the Prague surrealists can be seen in the illustrations of some works of fiction, particularly in the cover art.



The layout and imagery for the poetry collection Falešný Mariaš by the Czech poet Vítězslav Nezval, designed by Devětšil Group surrealists Jindřich Styrský and Toyen (Marie Cerminová) in 1925.

One of the curiosities of the Polonica Collection is the group of books which the library donated elsewhere in the 1920s or 1930s. The Polish Association and the Catholic Parish of Helsinki were given a selection of fiction from the Collection, and while some of these books were received back in the 1960s, not all of them were recatalogued at the time. In conjunction with these re-donations, the Collection gained some materials previously not included in the collections of the University, particularly Polish-language children's and adolescent literature published in the 1910-1930s.

Opportunities for contemporary research

The time after the Second World War is perhaps the most fragmented in the Polonica Collection, but it provides researchers with excellent opportunities to study a range of themes through the materials in the collection. One of the available themes is emigrant literature written in the Slavonic languages. The Polonica Collection comprises materials of post-war emigrant literature printed in Argentina, the UK, Israel and France, as well as later Czech dissident literature printed in Canada. The Collection provides excellent sources for researchers in the humanities and social sciences for the study of socialist realism in most languages covered by the Collection. The golden age of Polonica dates from the beginning of the 1970s, the highly interesting era of the Cold War, normalisation and social debate.

Exchange agreements and donations are an integral part of Polonica and highlight the diversity represented by the collection's wide range of languages. For the Collection, scholarly publication series acquired through exchange agreements hold a key position. In 1972, the Slavonic Library had a total of 118 exchange agreements, the most important of which were concluded at the beginning of the 1970s with the university libraries of Krakow and Poznań as well as the National Library of Poland. The exchange agreements enabled the Collection to supplement its series of Polish publications. Through these agreements, the Collection has acquired, for example, legal studies literature from Yugoslavia in the early 1970s. After the Second World War, fiction in particular was often donated from the people's republics in a spirit of cultural exchange and cooperation. Examples of this include works written in the westernmost Slavonic languages, Upper and Lower Sorbian, donated from East Germany. Today, any exchanges are conducted in a centralised manner through the Exchange Centre for Scientific Literature.

For the most recent time period, Polonica is strongly focused on scholarly literature. The Collection is an essential Finnish source of Western and Southern Slavonic cultures for scholars of the humanities and social sciences of the target countries. The increasing interest in research of the

Balkans is visible in the Polonica Collection, including fiction.

Efforts are being made to improve the Collection's accessibility for researchers and the general public by cataloguing its monographs in the National Library's Linda and Helka databases. The cataloguing work began in the autumn of 2010. In addition, the public can see the diversity of the collection for themselves starting in summer 2011, when the Slavonic Library of the National Library opens its exhibition on Polonica and the its wealth of Slavonic languages.

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen is a postgraduate student of history (University of Turku) and works as a fixed-term library secretary at the Slavonic Library of the National Library.

Polonica materials may be searched and requested through the National Library's Helka database with the location code of the Polonica Collection (H2 Pol.).

<https://helka.linneanet.fi/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?LANGUAGE=English&DB=local&PAGE=First>

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Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen

The Polonica Collection

The Polonica Collection comprises publications in Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian, Slovakian, Sorbian, Polish and Czech. There are approximately 17,000 monographs included in the Collection, and nearly the same number of serial publications. The earliest works were printed in the beginning of the 19th century, and today the Collection continues to grow with approximately 800 titles annually, including publications published as parts of monograph series.

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The Comellus project creates new expertise and solutions for the long-term preservation of printed publications

The Mikkeli-based Centre for Preservation and Digitisation of the National Library of Finland has launched a three-year project to develop a production process and model for the electronic deposit and archiving of newspapers. The Comellus project is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF/"Leverage from the EU"), the South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, the City of Mikkeli and the National Library.

The Act on Deposit and Preservation of Cultural Material stipulates that manufacturers, publishers and importers must submit to the National Library legal deposits of all the material that they have published in Finland, including books, magazines, sound recordings, sheet music and various ephemera. In addition, printing houses must deposit all newspapers in their original paper format to the National Library.

Developing the electronic deposit of newspapers benefits both parties of the legal deposit process. From the perspective of library services, the most important aspect of the project is that electronic copies of newspapers provide researchers and other information seekers with accessible, easy-to-use source material.

The National Library's partners The National Library's partners in the Comellus project include the publisher of the Länsi-Savo newspaper, Etelä-Savon Viestintä Oy, and the publisher of the Etelä-Suomen Sanomat newspaper, Esan Kirjapaino Oy. The project involves the conversion of newspapers deposited by Länsi-Savo and Etelä-Suomen Sanomat in PDF format to highly durable microfilm copies and the enrichment of the metadata (descriptive data) of old digitised volumes. Another aim is to ensure that the material posted online is as easy to use as possible.

Majlis Bremer-Laamanen, the director of the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation of the National Library, is pleased not only for her own organisation, but also for the fact that the Comellus project strengthens the status of Mikkeli as the national centre of digitisation, archiving and electronic services. The project will initially hire a project manager and IT designers and later an operator.

"We have handled the recruitment of new staff together with Digitalmikkeli, the Mikkeli-based cluster of expertise in digitisation, electronic services and archiving. The new staff to be recruited will cooperate with the experts at Digitalmikkeli," Bremer-Laamanen explains.

Further information
Laboratory Manager Maria Sorjonen
National Library Centre for Preservation and Digitisation
[maria.sorjonen\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:maria.sorjonen(at)helsinki.fi)

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Majlis Bremer-Laamanen

Photo by Heini Lehväslaiho

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Europe's first national crowdsourced digitization program breaks 25,000 participant mark

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DIGITALKOOT

Demonstrating global appeal, Microtask's online gaming experience combines entertainment and volunteer work for conserving Finnish cultural heritage

Europe's first national e-program Digitalkoot (Digital Volunteers), launched in March 2011 by the National Library of Finland and Microtask, has broken the 25,000 visitors only after one month of launching.

Digitalkoot is an e-program for the digitization of Finland's historical documents and material. The first of its kind in Europe, the program harnesses the power of crowdsourcing to mobilize people to help digitize millions of pages of archive material. Online volunteers complete small portions of work, or microtasks, to help correctly digitize historical content. Realized as two online games, the program combines entertainment and volunteer work.



During the first month, the voluntary work and online gaming have been equally appealing to both genders. The majority of the volunteers are between 25 and 44 years of age. Most of the volunteers come from Finland, but the program has demonstrated its global appeal; volunteers from the USA, Sweden and Great Britain have participated as well.

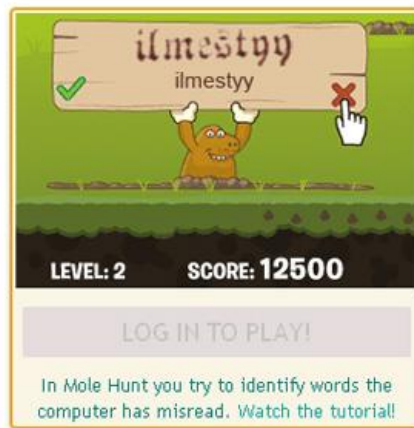
The e-program technology provider is Microtask, whose automated platform splits dull repetitive tasks into tiny microtasks and distributes them over the internet. Once carried out by interested microworkers around Finland or around the world, Microtask puts the results back together into a completed assignment. In the first phase, The National Library of Finland's e-program consists of two online games. The online gaming experience provides both entertainment and the opportunity to contribute to the preservation of Finland's cultural heritage.

"There is a constant flow of material into our national archives, so we have a constant need for digitization. Everyone is welcome and everyone's contribution is important, whether they work five minutes or five hours. I am proud that even such a small nation as Finland is able to launch something like this," says Microtask Managing Director Harri Holopainen, "With Microtask technology, repetitive work can be split into smaller components and allocated to numerous people. In the Digitalkoot program, we help turn routine work into fun, almost a parlor game."

The National Library of Finland has millions and millions of pages of historically and culturally valuable magazines, newspapers and journals online. The challenge is that the optical character recognition often contains errors and omissions, which hamper searches. Manual correction is needed to weed out these mistakes so that the texts become machine readable, enabling scholars and archivists to search the material for the information they need.

The National Library of Finland aims to enhance the visibility, accessibility and usability of the Library's unique collections. Digital collections facilitate the use of cultural heritage materials in virtual environments. To date, four million pages of different types of texts from the 18th to 20th centuries have been digitized, but there still remains a huge bulk of cultural heritage archived only in paper files. The e-program enables anyone to contribute converting portions of Finnish cultural heritage into a lasting format. The aim is to crowdsource thousands of volunteers to participate online utilizing modern technology developed in Finland.

In the first phase, The National Library of Finland's e-program consists of two online games. In 'Mole Hunt' (Myyräjahti), the player is shown two different words, and they must determine as quickly as possible if they are the same. This uncovers erroneous words in archived material. In 'Mole Bridge' (Myyräsilta), players have to spell correctly the words appearing on the screen. Correct answers help moles build a bridge across a river.



In the next phase, the Digitalkoot e-program will be expanded to target also more serious history buffs.

More information (in Finnish) is available on www.digitalkoot.fi.

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Well-known Finnish Disney collector Pentti Hauhiala donates most of his life's work to promote the Finnish cultural heritage

Pentti Hauhiala, who has devoted much of his life to collecting all things Disney, donated his collection of thousands of Disney books, magazines, videos, records and other items to the National Library of Finland. The National Library has named the donated collection after Hauhiala.



Photo by Kari Timonen

Although the new collection will be maintained as a single unit, the donation agreement stipulates that the National Library may negotiate on housing parts of the collection in other national memory institutions. Accordingly, some parts of the audiovisual material and objects included in the collection will be stored elsewhere. The National Library can also use individual items to supplement its National Collection, which includes all publications on Finland or printed in Finland.

In future, researchers and other information seekers may access the Disney Collection of Pentti Hauhiala at the National Library within copyright restrictions.

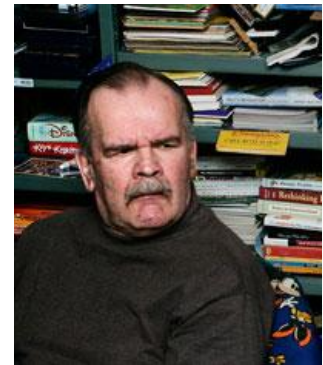
Further information: Head of Collections Sinimarja Ojonen, National Library of Finland/Research Library.

[sinimarja.ojonen\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:sinimarja.ojonen(at)helsinki.fi)

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Pentti Hauhiala

Photo by Kari Timonen

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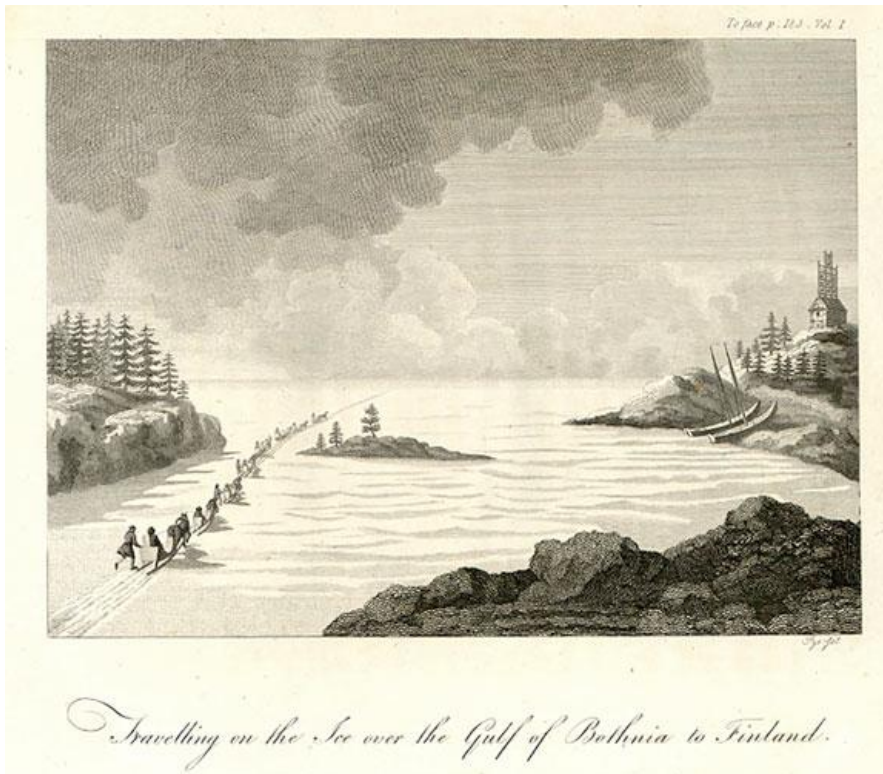
The National Library's travel-themed treasures digitised for open online use

The National Library of Finland has digitised Finnish or Finnish-themed travel books from the 17th to the 19th centuries as part of the EuropeanaTravel project, organised jointly by European research libraries and national libraries.

These materials are available both through the National Library's Doria publications archive and the Europeana portal, operated jointly by European memory institutions.

Launched in 2009 and funded by the European Commission and EU Member States, the [EuropeanaTravel project](#) is coordinated by the National Library of Estonia. The travel-themed materials, digitised in different countries, comprise a multilingual and multicultural entity which offers new starting points for research.

The National Library of Finland has digitised over one hundred works. This historically significant material illustrates how Finland and Finns were seen during the period of Swedish rule.



Travelling on the Ice over the Gulf of Bothnia to Finland
Giuseppe Acerbi, 1802

The material includes, among other sources, old geography textbooks and some of the first travelogues about Finland, complete with pictures and maps. Works related to Lapland are particularly well represented.

In its own contribution to the EuropeanaTravel project, the National Library of Finland focused on improving the usability of the materials by providing English-language descriptions, including the provenance, for all works in different languages.

www.doria.fi

www.europeana.eu

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Doria 



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HIGHLIGHTS

My National Library: Emeritus Professor Matti Klinge, DPhil

1. In your opinion is the National Library of Finland a genuinely European library?

For me the National Library is above all a European library. Too many people focus on the National Collection (Fennica). This was reflected in the change of the Library's name to the "National Library of Finland" a few years ago. It carries a strong national significance. It could even be claimed that the National Library is a European-Russian library. Its Slavonic Collection is exceptionally rich thanks to the vast amount of literature received as donations from Russia since the 1830s. The architecture of the building also has echoes of St Petersburg. The potential contribution of the National Library to non-Finnish scholars depends on the individual and his or her needs. The National Library can offer much more than, say, French or Italian libraries to a scholar of Estonian culture. The tradition of science studies in Finland harks back to Germany, and the European collections of the National Library also provide a cultural link with France and Italy.

2. You have had a long career as a historian, an academic and a social observer and commentator. How important has the National Library been to you during your career?

Highly important. Many historians have emphasised the importance of the National Archives, but for me the National Library has been second to none. I became familiar with the National Library as an upper-secondary student and had free access to its collections when writing my Master's thesis and later in my scholarly work. I still come here almost daily.

3. Is any one of the National Library collections particularly dear to you?

It is difficult to say, as my interests are constantly changing, but the digital newspaper library has been incredibly useful to me, though perhaps not most dear! However, I do not wish for all the material to become available through the Internet, as I enjoy visiting this beautiful building.

4. What has been your most fascinating discovery in the National Library?

Unexpected things can be found between bound pamphlets. I remember reading an 18th century leaflet on healthcare and finding within it another leaflet in which the government gave advice on how to correctly kill wolves. I also appreciate books as objects and admire beautiful and typographically interesting covers. A book is much more than its content; it also sends a message as an object.

5. Has the National Library changed much throughout the years?

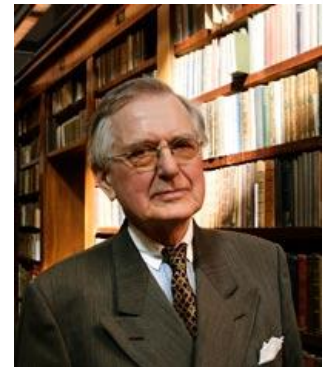
When I first began visiting the National Library it looked the same as in the 19th century. There was no café, and the Cupola Hall was not open to the public. Change has been constant, but the cultural mission of the National Library remains the same. Although current thinking emphasises high productivity and speedy returns – how many people visit the library daily or how many books are borrowed – these cannot be the sole objectives. Cultural institutions have intrinsic value, a museum-like function. Museums are the mark of a civilised society.

6. In what direction do you wish the National Library to develop in the future?

It should focus on managing its collections and ensuring that it has sufficient staff with appropriate language skills and training. Competencies and traditions should be transferred to the younger generation.

7. Will libraries disappear? Collections are being digitised at a fast pace and Google offers all sorts of information.

Libraries will absolutely have a place in the world 10, 20, 50 years from now. The more ostensibly efficient the world becomes, the more important libraries will be. They are like muses who inspire and nurture us. One must read a wide range of books to gain an understanding of the world's complex chain of historical achievements and events. In the natural sciences, a new invention or theory replaces old ideas, but humanities research builds upon previous achievements to form a continuum. Arguably, a book never becomes obsolete, as changing perspectives may later lend it historical significance. In addition, digitising does not mean that language skills become unnecessary. Humanities scholars must know Latin and German as well as a host of other languages. Reading requires understanding written language. For example, you can now find 17th and 18th century dissertations online, but they are still in Latin! Has their digitisation increased their use and



Emeritus Professor Matti Klinge, DPhil

Photo by Kari Timonen

demand? Do major commercial interests play a role?

8. Your book *A European University* recounts the history of the University of Helsinki from 1640 to today. What do you hope an English-language reader would gain from your book?

I have tried to show what the role of universities has been in reforming the nation, at least here in Finland. The University of Helsinki is located in the heart of the Finnish capital close to our political and economic leaders. This has enabled the University to function as a nest of active social involvement. Although this is a Finnish issue, commentators elsewhere in Europe have noted with interest that the history of a university can also be approached in this way.

9. You have spoken extensively about the value of internationalisation and a knowledge of other cultures. Do you think that Finland will take a step backwards as a result of the recent parliamentary elections and lose support for its international openness?

I doubt it. But I think that there is scope for more progress, and here I trust the Finnish school system. Learning languages is crucial. Poor language skills lead to an unbalanced, unilateral view of the world. I also hope that children and adolescents will grow to appreciate our material cultural property. After all, classical music is not immediately accessible to everyone, but music education has a high status in our society. As well, old literature is continually cited in other European countries: Shakespeare in England and Goethe in Germany. Journalists use quotations in their stories without having to explain that a quote comes from *King Lear*, for instance. We should seek to gain access to many major cultures rather than relying on just one, in our case Anglo-Saxon culture which differs considerably from French and German culture. The National Library should also emphasise more strongly the multilingual richness and diversity of its collections.

Interviewer: Suvi Kingsley

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Sirkka Havu

HIGHLIGHTS

The puzzle of a great Russian Library

The year 2011 marks the 300-year jubilee of the first great Russian scientist, polymath, reformer of the Russian language and poet, Mikhail Vasiljevitch Lomonosov (1711–1765). The journey to find all of the missing pieces of this pioneering scientist's library has been long and colourful, and has continued down to the present.

Hidden within Count Orlov's library

In 1961 there came to light a note, written in 1853, which stated that after Lomonosov's death the Russian military officer Count Grigor Grigorevitch Orlov had bought the scientist's library and archives. It was well known that the largest part of Orlov's library had come to Finland in the nineteenth century, as part of a wave of generous gifts from notable individuals and institutions to the newly established Library of the Imperial Alexander University in Helsinki.

The largest of these gifts, consisting of 24,000 volumes, was the donation of Paul Alexandroff (1808–1857), a cavalry captain and the son of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovitch (1779–1831). Paul Alexandroff's gift included two imperial collections inherited from his father: the Great Library of Konstantin Pavlovitch and the Library of the Marble Palace, "ci-devant la Bibliothèque du Comte d'Orloff".

Count Orlov's library was the smaller of these two collections, containing around 2,600 volumes. Orlov had acquired the original library of the Marble Palace from Catherine II, along with the Marble Palace itself. The major part of the library consisted of the collections of senior eighteenth-century Russian officials, and contained books from well-known Russian libraries: those of Andrei Artamanovitch Matveyev and Grigorii Feodorovitch Dolgorukov, and, as it was later discovered, of Mikhail Vasiljevitch Lomonosov.

An international sensation

The discovery in Helsinki of the books belonging to Lomonosov's library in Helsinki caused a minor international sensation for Russian book historians had long been looking those volumes.

The Russian researchers came to Helsinki and together with Finnish librarians undertook to locate the books in the stacks of the Helsinki University Library (renamed the National Library of Finland in 2006).

The joint effort led to the return of 52 volumes from Lomonosov's library, with his autograph markings, to Russia in 1977. In exchange the Helsinki University Library received modern Russian literature. Most of these 52 volumes dealt with physics and chemistry, but there were also texts by classical authors in Latin. In fact, the main language of these books was Latin, along with German, French and Russian.

A new Russian-Finnish search for the books

The year 2009 saw the start of the "Mikhail Lomonosov's Library" project, a new phase in the search to identify more books with Lomonosov's autograph markings in the National Library collections.

The work was carried out by the librarian Linda Tuominen and myself at the National Library, with the help of Dr. Irina Lebedeva from the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who visited the Library twice during the project. The visits were important for the project's success, first, because we could discuss with her the most effective means of searching for the books owned by Lomonosov, and second, because she showed us the kinds of markings that Lomonosov typically made in his books. In addition, the opportunity for her to study the books we had found was essential.

We started our search in the stacks that represented Lomonosov's scientific interests, particular attention to books printed before 1765 in the main thematic sections of chemistry, botany and linguistics. The systematic sections of philosophy, geology, geography, travel accounts, mathematics, physics and natural sciences were searched less methodically.

We compared all the books we found with the kinds of markings made by Lomonosov as recorded in three different catalogues: G.M. Korovin Biblioteka Lomonosova. Moskva: Izdatel'stvo AN SSSR, 1961; Catalogue des livres de la Bibliothèque du Palais de Marbre (ci-devant la Bibliothèque du Comte d'Orloff); Catalogue des livres de la Grande Bibliothèque de son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Césarewitch Grand Duc Constantin Pawlowitch.

The most reliable of these catalogues was that of the Marble Palace, but some of Lomonosov's books had also apparently been appropriated by the library of the Gatchina Palace.



Mikhail Vasiljevitch Lomonosov
(1711–1765)



Gold tooled spine, red leather label with gilt text "DISSERTATIONES" and remains of a paper label.

The marbled leather binding was ordered from a professional book binder by Lomonosov himself and it contains a collection of dissertations by the following physicians and natural scientists: Johann Gottlob Lehmann, Johann Gottfried Pietsch, Christian Gottlieb Kratzenstein, Jacob Theodor Klein, Anton Friedrich Büsching, Zacharias Theobald.



D. Joh. Friedrich Henkel, Flora Saturnizans, die Verwandschaft des Pflanzen - mit dem Mineralreich, nach der Naturalhistorie und Chymie aus vielen Anmerkungen und Proben. Neue verbesserte Auflage. Leipzig, Johann Heinrich Gross 1755.

Title page, frontispiece and binding with marbled pastedown. On the frontispiece citation "Quod est Superius" taken from the alchemical text "Quod est inferius est sicut quod est superius" (As above so below).

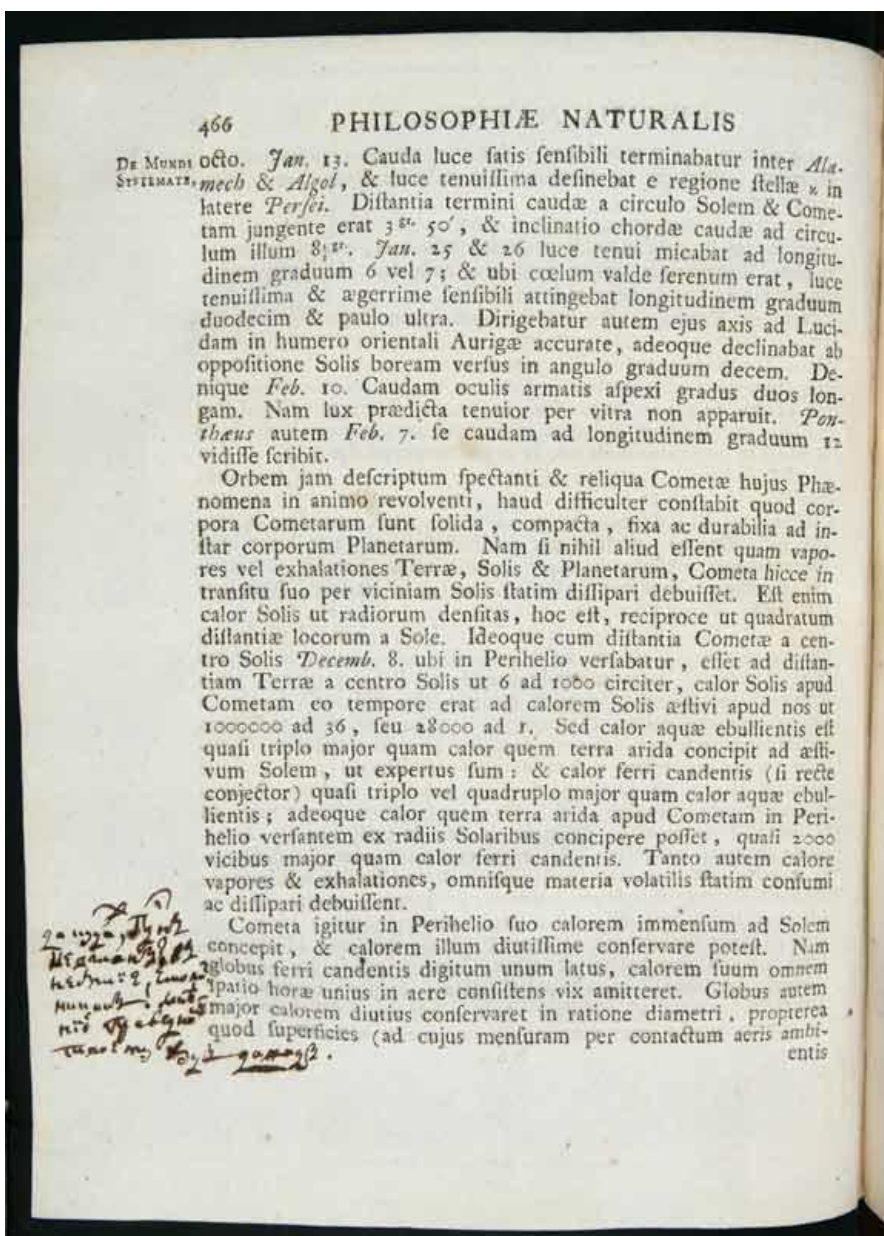
Enlightening and educational

The process of looking for Lomonosov's books in the National Library has added greatly to our knowledge of the history of the Library's collections.

For instance, we now know that most of the books that could have belonged to Lomonosov have turned out to have belonged to other Russian notables and their magnificent libraries. One of these was Johann Albrecht von Korff (1697–1766), diplomat and former president of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences. There were also books from the library of the princely family Dolgorukii, with the gilt armorial bookplate of the Dolgorukii tooled on bindings of brown leather with gold-tooled spines. Furthermore, the stamp of Moscow University and handwritten ownership markings of Vilnius University or various Polish Jesuit colleges often appeared on the title page of these books. There were also many books with various personal names, such as A. A. Matveev (1666–1728), Christian Gottlieb Jöcher (1694–1758), along with Swedish and Finnish names.

We also learned that there were no special or outstanding features on the books from Lomonosov's library. His books were mostly bound in brown leather or had half-leather bindings with gold-tooled spines and gilt spine titles, typical of an eighteenth century scholarly library.

However, Lomonosov's books do have a special feeling of their own, a certain aura. Perhaps this feeling has something to do with the way Lomonosov marked the important passages he had read or underlined significant sentences in a heavy hand.



Isaac Newton, *Philosophiæ naturalis principia mathematica*.
Editio ultima. Amstelodami: sumptibus Societatis 1723.

Lomonosov's markings in Russian on page 466.

After this rather intensive period of research, which spanned many decades, it has been educational and enlightening to piece together the patchy history of Mikhail Lomonosov's library and to establish that the works of this great Russian scientist have indeed been present in the National Library of Finland since the beginning of the nineteenth century.

It will also be a joy to see the new discoveries from the "Mikhail Lomonosov's Library" project published in an anniversary volume to celebrate his 300-year jubilee.

Sirkka Havu is a Special librarian at the National Library of Finland.

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[A brief history of the National Library of Finland](#)

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Who was Lomonosov?

Mikhail Vasiljevitch Lomonosov (19 November 1711 – 15 April 1765) was born in Archangel in the north of European Russia. His father was a rather wealthy fisherman and tradesman in the fishing business. Mikhail Vasiljevitch, however, did not want to follow in his father's footsteps; he wanted to study.

He left first for Moscow where he learned Latin, a language necessary for an eighteenth century scientist. In 1736 he began his studies at the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences, and the same year he left for Marburg, Germany, to study geometry, physics, chemistry, mechanics and hydrostatics under the famous philosopher Christian Wolff. From there Lomonosov went on to Freiberg in 1739, studying metallurgy and mining under the prominent teacher and scientist Johann-Friedrich Henckel.

In 1741, he returned to St Petersburg and began his scientific work at the Academy of Sciences. Within four years, in 1745, he was named professor of chemistry and made a full member of the Academy. The founding of Moscow University – now Lomonosov Moscow State University – was instigated by Lomonosov and Count Ivan Shuvalov in 1755.



Mikhail Vasiljevitch Lomonosov

(L.S.Miropol'sky 1787after-G.Prenner)

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HIGHLIGHTS

A brief history of the National Library of Finland

The National Library of Finland, founded as the Library of the University of Finland at Turku in 1640, was destroyed in 1827 in the great fire of the town of Turku, the former capital of Finland. After the fire a previously planned move of the University to Helsinki was put into effect. Helsinki had become Finland's capital in 1812 as a result of Sweden's ceding of Finland to Russia. The Library, now renamed the Library of the Imperial Alexander University, started almost from scratch in Helsinki. However, it grew astonishingly fast, mostly because of donations of books from European and Finnish learned institutions and private individuals, but the real growth of the library's holding of books useful to the research work was based on generous gifts from St Petersburg.

In 2006 the name of the Library was changed from the University of Helsinki Library to the National Library of Finland.



Cupola Hall

Photo by Tuula Korhonen

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Kaj Öhrnberg

[HIGHLIGHTS](#)

The extraordinary travels of Georg August Wallin or 'Abd al-Wālī

From the Åland Islands to the Arabian Peninsula

When Russia acquired Finland from Sweden in the war of 1808-09, the Russian Empire was opened to Finnish academic circles and not only to those with an interest in Finno-Ugric studies. Several Finns pursued Oriental studies in the main seats of Oriental scholarship in Russia, namely Saint Petersburg, Kazan and Moscow. One of those to benefit from Finland's new position was Georg August Wallin (1811–1852).

The Orientalist

Born on 24 October, 1811 in the Åland Islands, Wallin studied Arabic, Persian, Turkish and classical languages at the Imperial Alexander University of Helsinki from 1829 to 1836 and in Saint Petersburg from 1840 to 1842. A key figure for his future travels was his Arabic teacher in Saint Petersburg, Shaikh Muḥammad 'Ayyād al-Ṭanṭāwī (1810–1861), whose stories about Egypt and the Arabs inspired Wallin to become acquainted in situ with the Arabs and Islamic culture. In 1841, Wallin was awarded a travel grant from the Imperial Alexander University in Helsinki to enable him to further his studies of Arabic dialects and acquaint himself with the doctrines of the nineteenth-century fundamentalists, the Wahhābīs, who dominated the form of Islam practised on the Arabian Peninsula. It thus happened that in the 1840s when the interest of Finnish academic circles, inspired by romanticism and an awakening national spirit, was focused almost exclusively on Siberia, a head-strong Finnish individualist travelled over the Arabian Peninsula on a camel, seeking the Noble Savage of the Romantics in one Bedouin camp after another.

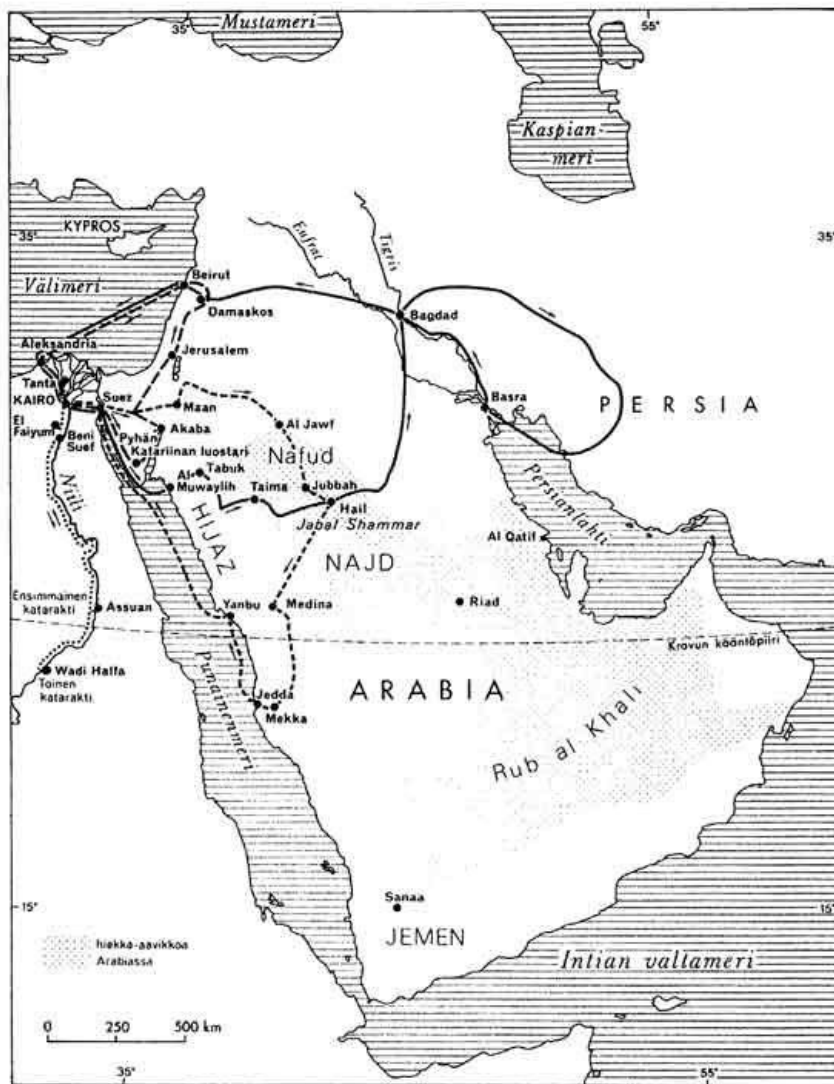
'Abd al-Wālī

In July 1843, Wallin set sail from Helsinki, arriving in Cairo in January of 1844. Using Cairo as his base, he made three expeditions into the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula and Sinai, the basis for his later reputation as a linguist and explorer. Throughout his stay in Cairo and during his journeys, the Nordic scholar presented himself as a Muslim subject of the Russian Tsar: 'Abd al-Wālī from Bukhara in Central Asia.

In April of 1845 when 'Abd al-Wālī set out on his first desert journey, he became the first European to reach al-Jauf and Ḥā'il, from where he intended to continue to the Persian Gulf. However, conditions forced him to return to Cairo – via Mecca and Medina, cities forbidden to non-Muslims. 'Abd al-Wālī's second trip began in December of 1846. This time his destinations were the monastery of St Catherine and the pilgrimage sites in the Holy Land, revered jointly by Jews, Christians and Muslims. His last desert journey began in December of 1847. Travelling via Taimā' and Tabūk, this time 'Abd al-Wālī got as far as Ḥā'il, where he was again forced to change his itinerary: instead of proceeding to Oman and Aden as intended, he had to turn north to Baghdad, from where he went on to Persia, visiting Kermānshāh, Iṣfahān and Shīrāz.



Georg August Wallin



The routes of G. A. Wallin:

- The routes in Egypt in 1844–1847
- The first trip to the desert 1845–1846
- . - . - The second trip to the desert 1846–1847
- The third trip to the desert 1847–1849

Enchanted by Arabia

Wallin returned to Helsinki in June of 1850. Following his appointment as professor of Oriental literature, he enthusiastically began preparing for a new trip to Arabia. The idea was that the British and Russian geographical societies would share the costs. But an absolute requirement of the Russians was that, on his way home, Wallin would have to make a separate expedition to the Islamic world of Central Asia where in the 1850s Russia had specific political and military goals. This, however, Wallin was not prepared to do, "and when willingness and dedication are lacking, results cannot be expected". In any case, in light of his diary entries there is good reason to believe that, enchanted by the deserts of Arabia and emotionally attached to the Bedouins as he had become, Wallin had no intention of returning to Europe. Negotiations had reached a stalemate when Wallin died suddenly at his home in Helsinki on 23 October, 1852.

A mere footnote in the history of exploration

Of the material Wallin collected on the Arabian Peninsulam, only the article about Bedouin songs, "Probe aus einer Anthologie neuarabischer Gesänge, in der Wüste gesammelt" (1851-52), was published on the basis of Wallin's own manuscript. Two articles, "Notes taken during a Journey through Part of Northern Arabia, in 1848" (1851) and "Narrative of a Journey from Cairo to Medina and Mecca, by Suez, Arabá, Tawilá, al-Jauf, Jubbe, Háil and Nejd, in 1845" (1854), written for the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, were mutilated by the editors. Posthumously edited from Wallin's papers by Herman Kellgren were two articles on linguistics, "Über die Laute des Arabischen und ihre Bezeichnung" (1855 and 1858) and "Bemerkungen über die Sprache der Beduinen" (1858).

In evaluating the results of Wallin's travels, it should be taken into consideration that his copious notes, although partly published, were written in Swedish and have thus remained largely inaccessible to international researchers. David George Hogarth, the British archaeologist and author of *The Penetration of Arabia* (1904), wrote that "one might spare something of his successors' narratives to have more of Wallin's". Unfortunately, Wallin's early death and the language barrier presented by his diaries have relegated him to a footnote in the annals of linguistics and exploration.

The first European scholar of the Bedouin way of life

This position, of course, does not imply that the texts that were published are of no significance. Wallin was the first scholar to collect Bedouin poetry and to show a scholarly interest in Arabic dialects; his views on Arabic phonetics enjoyed respect well into the twentieth century. His third trip, which made Wallin the first European to cross northern Arabia, brought approbation and honours from both the Royal Geographical Society in London and La Société de Géographie in Paris. Carsten Niebuhr and Johann Ludwig Burckhardt had written about the Bedouins of the Arabian Peninsula earlier, but Wallin was the first European to get to know the Bedouins and their way of life, and to live among them for a considerable time.

In great esteem in the Middle East

As a fulfilment of Hogarth's wish made in 1904, a new complete edition of Wallin's literary output is on its way. In 2008 Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland (Society of Swedish Literature in Finland) undertook to publish all of Wallin's material, both published and unpublished, in its original language whether Swedish, Arabic, Latin, German, French, English or Russian. Volume 1 was published in 2010; volume 2 will appear in 2011. Altogether there will be six volumes, each comprising approximately 500 pages. When the critical edition is available, translation of selected portions will be made, at least into English, Arabic and Persian.

Today Wallin enjoys great esteem in the Middle East. One reason is that, unlike many travellers to the region in his time, he was not a spy sent by the European powers. In his descriptions of Arabian conditions and geography, he was often the first – and the only – scholar to give references to particular tribes and localities. This has earned him an excellent reputation, particularly in Saudi-Arabia. Muslims also believe that 'Abd al-Wālī genuinely embraced Islam and did not merely pass himself off as one of them.

Kaj Öhrnberg is a researcher in Islamic studies at the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki.

The year 2011 marks the 200th anniversary of Wallin's birth. A celebratory exhibition of the great explorer's travels will open at the National Library of Finland on 20 October 2011. Highlights include Wallin's travel diaries and letters from the Library's collections, as well as books and manuscripts he brought back from Cairo. There will also be an international seminar on Wallin at the University of Helsinki on 21 October with researchers invited from Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Finland.

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Esa-Pekka Keskitalo

HIGHLIGHTS

Enterprise architecture – the foundation for a strategy

The main building of the National Library of Finland is known for its beautiful architecture. However, there is another realm of architecture where the Library aspires to be among the good examples.

An enterprise architecture is basically a description of an organization from the point of view of information technology and information management. It shows what an organization is, what it does, how it is put together and what the relationships between its parts are. Although the perspective is that of information technology, it is equally important that its architecture explains processes, roles and responsibilities, as well as the flows of information.

Enterprise architectures are a tool for strategic management and planning. As with any good strategic planning, working with enterprise architectures requires bidirectional communication, from management to implementers and back. In an enterprise architecture, the emphasis lies on communication from bottom to top.

An enterprise architecture also functions as an aid at a more practical level. It shows, for example, what kind of changes and improvements may be made in one system without overlap or conflict with other systems.

How did we ever manage without one, and why we need it now? After all, information technology has been an inherent part of our services and back-office tasks for a long time. However, what is changing is the importance of sharing and interoperability.

Just a few years ago, one did not think twice about searching for information in one system and copy-pasting it in the search box of another system. Today, we would immediately ask why do these systems not know about each other and exchange the data automatically.

Even within libraries, we are still struggling to make all our systems and services function together. For example, the management of printed and the management of digital collections tend to be rather separate activities. Nevertheless, we should be able to bridge the gap for the customers, not making them jump from one search interface to another.

The more interaction is demanded, the harder it becomes to keep the architecture organized, scalable and efficient. On the other hand, increasing interoperability may bring significant benefits in cost-efficiency. It helps to utilize work done in one place all over the organization, remove duplication of work and make processes run more smoothly.

Of course, sharing and interoperability go beyond the walls of the library. The possibilities for combining forces with other data providers are infinite, but this requires, of course, sharing and interoperability. The same applies to more mundane things such as letting customers pay their library fines with a credit card.

Enterprise Architecture of the National Digital Library

The National Digital Library was launched by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture with the purpose of promoting the availability of the digital information resources of archives, libraries and museums and developing the long-term preservation of digital cultural heritage materials.

The National Digital Library comprises two separate, but connected, initiatives. The first, the public interface, enables searches through the digital information resources of libraries, archives and museums. It also integrates library services, such as making renewals, orders and purchases. The public interface facilitates social interaction – commenting, tagging and the sharing of information – making the resources part of the networked life of the customers. The second part, the centralised long-term preservation solution for digital materials, provides preservation services for several organisations. It will secure transition between generations of systems, software and organizational structures, so that digital resources will remain usable over time.

(The National Digital Library has been discussed in previous issues of the Bulletin, and information in English is also available at www.kdk.fi.)

One may say that the National Digital Library affects every library and museum in Finland. A project of such scope and complexity obviously needs a clear big picture – and it needs to ensure that all parties agree on it.

The National Digital Library has adopted methodologies recommended by the Ministry of Finance for all levels of government architecture work. In this method, the environment is described on four different levels. From bottom to top, they are the levels of technology, systems, information, and business.



Photo by Kari Timonen



The National Digital Library

Technical architecture is a description of technological solutions used in information systems. Generally, technology architecture might list hardware configurations, programming languages and other low-level characteristics. In the context of the National Digital Library, much of this underlying technology will remain the responsibility of the participating organizations, and so it was left out of this level of architecture. Instead, much more attention was paid to standards. A standard portfolio was created and will be maintained, improved and updated. It will have a strong guiding effect on how information systems will be developed in the future.

Application architecture describes the services produced by information systems, as well as the relationships between different kinds of information. An inventory of information systems was made, filling several pages. As this list will be ever changing and hard to maintain, it was more important to identify the general roles of the systems – sixteen roles were found – and their importance.

Data architecture describes the flows of information. The purpose of data architecture is to create a shared view of key data capital and to facilitate the searching, dissemination and management of information. Data architecture describes the central information resources and the relationship between information categories and systems.

Business architecture describes the operational services and processes from the point of view of users and service items. The business architecture perspective within the NDL project contains descriptions of key stakeholders, a service map, and the main processes. The final document is available in English at <http://www.kdk.fi/en/enterprisearchitecture>.

National Library Enterprise Architecture Under Construction

Encouraged by the experiences of the nation-wide project mentioned above, The National Library has begun to draw up its own enterprise architecture.

The enterprise architecture for the National Digital Library took a whole year to design, and literally dozens of people were involved. One of the lessons of this undertaking was that the task is a lesson in itself. It turned out that there was much to be learned from the other participants' policies and practices, even their vocabulary – certainly much more than was anticipated.

We do not think that less than a year is going to suffice for us, either. Indeed, we are expecting to find surprises in our own information systems. The way the work with architecture increases coherence between units, often with very different tasks and priorities, is as important a result as the creation of a new starting-point for strategic planning at the Library, which the actual architecture will facilitate.

Enterprise Architectures Required by Law

The enterprise architecture of the National Digital Library was commended as the first complete, real-life architecture within the branch of public administration. However, there are certainly more to come.

The Finnish Government is pushing for more cooperation across organizational borders in public administration. A new act on information management will guide the way the Government works for the better technical and semantic interoperability of systems. The Ministry of Finance will have an important role as the overall coordinator. Enterprises architectures will actually become a legal obligation, and the best architecture will become a binding standard for all branches of government.

Although the National Library is not a government agency, it has very close ties with the public sector. We believe that architectural thinking will help the library sector to find new fields of cooperation. Enterprise architectures do take considerable time and effort, but they are a way to ensure that the invisible foundations of modern libraries are sound and, in a sense, beautiful.

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Anna Eskola

[HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Testing scalable processes - carrying out a large mass digitisation project successfully

The Impact of the Stimulus Project on Digitisation Workflow at the National Library of Finland

In spring 2010 the Ministry of Education and Culture granted funds to many Finnish organisations for carrying out large and small projects to digitise cultural heritage material. These projects were designed to simultaneously alleviate youth unemployment. The National Library of Finland was granted funds for a one-year so-called Stimulus Project that commenced in July 2010 and required the National Library and its personnel to adjust to a multitude of changes in digitisation workflow, logistics and even working methods.

From Operators to Team Leaders

Recruiting a large number of digitisation operators was one of the first steps when launching the Stimulus Project. Altogether 29 new operators were hired for the scanning and post-processing stages of the digitisation process - a drastic change compared with the low number of 7 permanent employees who had worked as digitisation operators. Luckily the recruiting process and the launching of the project were made easier by the fact that at hand was a large number of qualified applicants that had experience with similar digitisation work, of whom some had even worked previously in a similar project at the National Library's Centre for Preservation and Digitisation.

Due to the large number of temporary project personnel, the division of labour among the permanent digitisation staff had to be reorganised. The project personnel were divided into teams and most of the permanent digitisation operators became team leaders. This allowed for a flexible yet well-organised structure within the digitisation unit. It also helped with carrying out the project, as every team leader was very familiar with the work and the leaders were able to support their team members both during the orientation stage and throughout the project.

The digitisation facilities needed to be altered as well to make room for the project personnel. The Centre for Preservation and Digitisation in Mikkeli was able to secure a large amount of office furniture that the local branch of the Finnish Defence Forces was letting go. With this and by using its own resources the Centre was able to create enough work stations for all new employees.

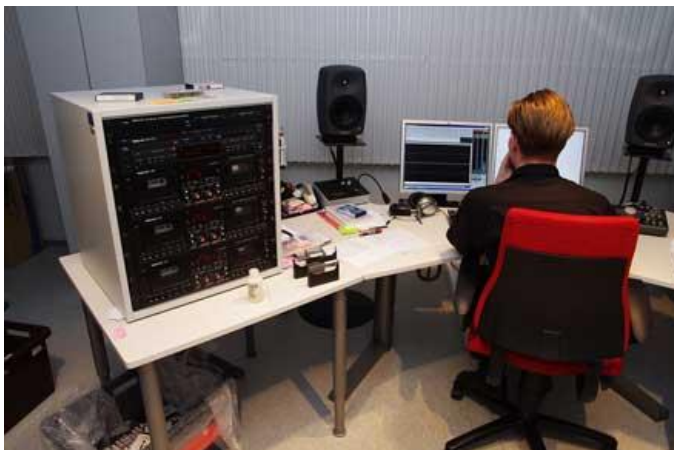
The Scale of the Shipments

The launch of the Stimulus Project called for quick planning to achieve the ambitious goal of two million digitised pages from a large amount of journal material and two thousand compact cassettes. The National Library decided to focus on Finnish journals that had been published before the year 1944 and on unique legal deposit compact cassettes from the 1980s and that had not been published in Finland in any other format. The latter contained material that had become brittle over time. These cassettes were coming close to the end of their lifespan as the tapes had already started to degrade despite good care and correct storing.



Manual scanning is needed for bindings that are either too fragile or of the wrong size for the automatic scanner.

Photo by Tuomas Havukainen



Three compact cassettes can be digitised at once.

Photo by Tuomas Havukainen

Continuing the digitisation of both Finnish journals and compact cassettes had been planned even

before the Stimulus Project was on the horizon. This facilitated the launching of the Stimulus Project, as the necessary equipment and software were set for these types of materials. The drastic changes in the production basically handled only the volume - something that we at the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation trusted our scalable processes would be able to manage.

A crucial factor in successfully carrying out the Stimulus Project was the efficient item-tracking system that has been tailored to National Library's needs. In addition to being able to track the flow of individual items being digitised, the system allowed National Library personnel to plan ahead and ship optimal amounts of material to the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation in order to avoid an excess or lack of material. This planning also made it possible to arrange for the transportation vehicles in time according to the size of each shipment.

Two-Shifts and the Phased Working Method

As any project that starts with a recruiting process, the beginning of the Stimulus Project was characterised by an orientation phase where new employees were made familiar with the project and the work. In order to make full use of the resources both the project personnel and the available equipment, the experts at the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation decided to use two-shifts for scanning. This was necessary in order to provide the post-processing operators with enough scanned material. At the same time work in post-processing was streamlined by adopting a working method in which each operator focused on a specific phase of the process.



Post-processing staff at work.

Photo by Tuomas Havukainen

In the early stages of the Stimulus Project the production goals appeared fairly ambitious. As the project put to test not only the capabilities of the personnel but also the equipment, its first part was marked by a constant need to follow developments in order to assess whether the goals could in fact be achieved, what risks might prevent this from happening, and how these risks could be avoided. In the end this was beneficial to the Library as it created a situation where the method for monitoring the digitisation and the different stages of the production was developed further.

As the project continued, the staff's collective know-how rose dramatically. The production goal was met in early April 2011 - an achievement one would not have been able to predict merely a few months earlier. As a result millions of pages of this material can now be accessed by anyone. Journals published before the year 1910 can be found online (digi.nationallibrary.fi), the rest are available at work stations in the National Library's premises and in other legal deposit libraries.

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Juha Hakala, Katri Seppälä, Eero Hyvönen

HIGHLIGHTS

Finnish thesauri and ontologies on the web – results from the national FinnONTO initiative

Introduction

Research libraries spend a considerable amount of professional staff resources on content analysis. The preferred tools for this work are classifications and controlled vocabularies.

Like most of its peers, Finnish research libraries initially preferred to use classifications. In some countries, libraries opted to develop and use national classification systems; in Sweden for instance, the SAB classification was used in most libraries (see http://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAB:s_klassifikationssystem). In Finland, research libraries relied on an abridged Finnish version of UDC. As UDC was seen as the system most suited for research libraries, public libraries developed a Dewey-based classification system which is still in use in every public library except the Helsinki city public library, which uses its own system.

Although professionals were able to use classifications both for the description and retrieval of information resources, librarians involved with customer services realized early on that ordinary library users were not able to utilize classifications. Therefore, even though classifications do have benefits, such as language independence in a multilingual country, in the 1980s the decision was taken to develop the Finnish General Thesaurus (Yleinen suomalainen asiasanasto, YSA; see <http://onki.fi/en/browser/overview/ysa>). The National Library was responsible for this work, which was completed in 1987. Since then the Library has maintained the system in close co-operation with the libraries that use the system.

Maintenance of the Finnish thesauri

In 2010 the Finnish General Thesaurus contained approximately 30,000 terms, of which 5500 are geographical names. The thesaurus has grown by an average of 1000 terms a year (200 geographical names), and there have also been many changes – notes and term specifications have been added, and occasionally the terms themselves are changed. Since Finland is a bilingual country, there is also a Swedish translation of the thesaurus. Allärs (Allmän thesaurus) is maintained by the Åbo Akademi library; the work is funded by the National Library and is based on a contract between the two organizations.

The YSA is a general thesaurus, so it is not ideally suited for detailed analysis of scientific content. Research libraries have therefore developed topical thesauri for this purpose. They are based on the YSA, and a large proportion of their terms are derived from the general thesaurus. The terms specific specialized thesauri are those needed in a particular area of study (say, forestry or agriculture). There are some specialized thesauri which are no longer maintained, including social sciences and information science. Their terms have been integrated into the YSA, and the intention is to maintain the same level of detail in the future thesauri.

The National Library also coordinates the development of the specialized thesauri. Such cooperation is important, since the people maintaining specialized thesauri often propose new terms to the YSA as well. The development of controlled vocabularies requires familiarity with the scientific literature, and no single person can cover all areas of knowledge. Thus the National Library sees broad co-operation as a vital component of vocabulary development and maintenance.

The expertise of subject specialists in Finland's libraries has enabled the National Library to build a general thesaurus which defines a large number of terms and the relationships between them (such as narrower, broader and related). This helps people – library staff and patrons alike – to describe and search for information. However, as a thesaurus, the YSA does not specify terms and their relationships with sufficient detail to make the vocabulary computer understandable in addition to computer readable. For this reason, the YSA was not suitable as the basis for the Finnish Semantic Web and had to be restructured into the Finnish General Ontology YSO.

Building and updating of the Finnish General Upper Ontology

The principles and general framework of the Finnish General Upper Ontology were created by the Semantic Computing Research Group in the FinnONTO project. When the work began in 2004, the whole research group participated in the modeling of the ontology. Models like DOLCE, by Nicola Guarino, and WordNet were used as sources of inspiration for this work. Since the research group chose to build an ontology based of the terms already in use in the Finnish General Thesaurus, the content of the thesaurus also greatly influenced the work. In order to maintain interoperability with the YSA (and the materials indexed using it), all terms included in the thesaurus had to be placed somewhere in the hierarchy of the ontology, or otherwise mapped to it.

The practical goal of this work was to construct a simple, light-weight ontology based on a subclass


[FinnONTO-project home page](#)

hierarchy. A typical YSO hierarchy branch looks like this:

```

endurant
physical object
  concrete inanimate object
    conveyances
      land vehicles
        vehicles
          motor vehicles
            cars
  
```

Each term / concept is identified by a URI; for instance the URI for the concept "cars" is <http://www.yso.fi/onto/yso/p1223>. Indexing in the YSO is based on URIs and not on human readable labels, which makes the ontology language neutral, i.e. multilingual. Based on the subclass hierarchy and other semantic relations, ontologies enable reasoning and the automatic semantic enriching of data. These kind of knowledge structures have been found useful in various semantic web applications.

Transforming a thesaurus into an ontology involves many tasks. Firstly, new intermediate concepts and semantic relations between the concepts were introduced in order to change the fragmented thesaurus into a systematic, fully connected hierarchy. Secondly, the broader/narrower term relations used in thesauri had to be refined in order to make the distinction between subclass-of and part-of relationships. Thirdly, the conceptual ambiguities of the terms had to be clarified. Many terms in the YSA have a broad meaning, making it impossible to place the concept in one branch of the ontology. In such cases, the term was typically split into several concepts that were placed in different parts of the ontology. For example, the YSA concept "child" can, for instance, refer to a family relationship or to an age group, and these meanings can now be found in different parts of the YSO ontology, with a mapping to the original ambiguous meaning used in the YSA. After any change, the relationships between the split or modified concept and other concepts had to be re-checked.

A major method used in the ontology work is concept analysis, which is described, for example, in the standard ISO 704 Terminology – Principles and methods. In concept analysis, the characteristics of the concept are analyzed in order to find out the essential and delimiting characteristics of the concept. These in turn help to identify the nearest generic superordinate concept and the concepts to which there is a relevant associative relation. In terminology work, for which the method has been created, the end result of concept analysis is usually a written definition complemented by notes, but in light-weight ontologies only the most important concept relationships are documented in the ontology.

It is of course possible to study a concept from several perspectives. This makes ontology work challenging, especially when building a general ontology (covering several subject fields) which can be used for several different purposes. In such a case, the person responsible for building the ontology has to find out what is the universal, widely accepted meaning of the concept and be ready for compromises which in many cases are imperfect, but can still help to create a solution that can be accepted by several parties.

When creating the principles of the Finnish General Upper Ontology, ontology expertise was crucial. In the long run, when the ontology is updated, it is important to ensure that expertise in concept analysis and ontology is available and that the work of the experts is co-ordinated. This can be done by using a network or working group consisting of experts from relevant subject fields. When experts are consulted and decisions are made together, major errors can be prevented and credibility gained among the users. This working model also reduces the cost of ontology work, as all parties can concentrate on that part of the work they know best.

From the point of view of the expertise required, there is not much difference between thesaurus and ontology maintenance. Both succeed or fail in dependence on the skills of the experts who develop the systems. However, unlike thesauri, ontologies require a solid IT foundation from which these systems can be embedded in the Semantic Web. This requires skills that few libraries currently have. In Finland, FinnONTO has removed this bottleneck.

The aims of FinnONTO

The first phase of the FinnONTO initiative began in 2003. The current phase, phase 3, will be completed in early 2012. All the phases of the initiative have been financed by TEKES, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (<http://www.tekes.fi/en/>), and by dozens of Finnish public-sector organizations and companies, while the Semantic Computing Research Group, joint venture between Aalto University and the University of Helsinki, (<http://www.seco.tkk.fi/>) has been mainly responsible for the research and development work. The National Library has been one of the key partners, due to its YSA responsibility, but many other organizations have also been involved in the initiative, which is well known not only in Finland but also internationally. The project has published a large number of research papers, ranging from short articles to academic dissertations (see <http://www.seco.tkk.fi/publications/>).

The vision of the FinnONTO-project is to create a national semantic web infrastructure in Finland based on ontologies. This vision includes the following goals regarding the publishing of ontologies:

1. To enable the development of intelligent web applications. The shift from thesauri to ontologies is a key enabler for this. The crucial benefit of ontologies is that they specify concepts more accurately for computers. This is crucial, for instance, in semantic searches and when recommending applications. Thesauri do specify the relationships between semantic terms, too, but they require more human interpretation. Thus, ontologies are needed for the establishment of the machine processable Semantic Web, also known as the Web of Data.
2. To make data on the web interoperable. Using shared reference ontologies at the content descriptions level enables interoperability between the contents of different organizations and the public.
3. To make the national ontologies freely available on the Web. A free, centralized Web service, maintained by public funding, will foster interoperability through the usage of the ontologies and save work and

money at a national level. 4. Open data, standards, and licensing. Ontologies (and the thesauri they are based on) should be published as open data, based on well known standards and should use business-friendly licensing (such as an MIT License). Moreover, applications with which controlled vocabularies can be maintained and accessed should be made available as open source, since this will foster the usage of these systems. 5. To foster and enrich both public and private sector services via the utilization of common infrastructure.

FinnONTO achievements

No project is important just because it has ambitious aims. FinnONTO, however, has managed to achieve its goals, and it therefore deserves its status as the flagship Semantic Web initiative in Finland.

The project has developed the Finnish General Upper Ontology, the YSO, its Swedish translation, ALLSO, and a draft of an English version of the YSO. Moreover, this core set (ca 25,000 concepts) has been extended in close co-operation with partnering organizations to include 15 other specialized thesaurus-based ontologies. These domain specific ontologies are now aligned with the YSO and through it linked to each other. The result is what is known as the Finnish Holistic Collaborative Ontology, KOKO, depicted in figure 1. KOKO contains ca. 90,000 concepts at the moment, about three times more than the YSO.

Aligning ONKI ontologies

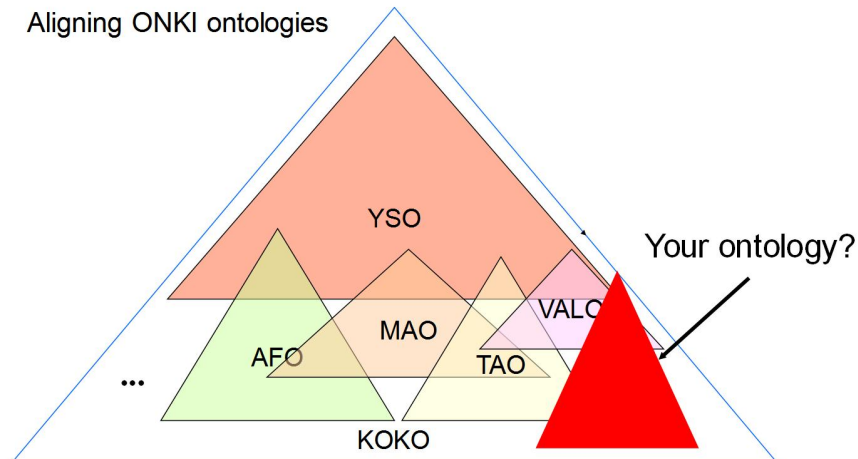


Figure 1. KOKO ontology consists of the upper ontology, YSO, and 15 special ontologies, such as AFO (forestry and aciculture), MAO (museums), TAO (applied art), and VALO (photography).

In addition to general concept ontologies based on thesauri, the project has developed also other kind of ontologies/vocabularies for places (both historical and contemporary), authorities (people and organizations), historical events, and biological names (taxonomies). These vocabularies have been published on the web in the National Ontology Service (ONKI) for use by human beings and computer systems. The popularity of the ONKI service has increased steadily, with the number of registered domains increasing by 50 per cent from January 2010 to January 2011. The users of the service represent both the public and private sector. The ONKI service is maintained at the Aalto University in a living lab environment, and at present there are some 14,000 individual human users every month, in addition to about 400 registered machine users (through web services).

A project such as FinnONTO can do no more than enable and foster the shift towards using ontologies, and many organizations still prefer thesauri over ontologies. There are many possible explanations for this, including tradition, the lack of support for ontologies in current information systems, lack of understanding of the benefits of using ontologies, or quite simply a belief that in spite of all the Semantic Web –related hype, thesauri are still superior to ontologies. As the deep concept hierarchies in ontologies are important and useful for computers but less so for human beings, some critics have failed to understand their usefulness.

Thus in Finland, as in other countries, the shift from thesauri to ontologies is still a work in progress. In some areas of knowledge the process has advanced relatively quickly and painlessly; the old specialized thesauri have already been replaced by ontologies which are, without exception, based on the earlier thesauri. However, the National Library will continue developing the YSA for the time being, since the thesaurus is very widely used for content analysis, and since the YSO is dependent on the YSA: new YSO terms are and will be derived from YSA.

Co-maintenance of the YSA and the YSO is not much of a burden at a practical level. Since the two vocabularies are almost identical at a term / concept level, there is not much additional work to be done. Furthermore, the switch to YSO usage should be relatively painless, once organizations are ready for it. The key issue the users need to consider is the support for the Semantic Web that the ontologies will give – if publishing open linked data is a priority for an organization, then ontology usage should be seriously considered.

Availability of national ontologies in the Internet. As of May 2011, the ONKI ontology library service (see <http://onki.fi/>) will make 62 vocabularies freely available to the users in Finland and abroad. In addition, the service includes various knowledge structures that cannot be shown or published openly due to the licensing conditions of the original publishers (e.g. the ULAN, TGN, and AAT vocabularies of the Getty Foundation). The ONKI supports the easy publication of light-weight ontologies (either in RDFS or in OWL format) and vocabularies in the W3C standard SKOS format. All the ontologies and thesauri can be browsed using software and a graphical user interface that has been built during the project. Feedback from users has been a major driving force for development. There are also APIs via which other programs can use the ONKI as web service.

To foster and enrich services via the utilization of a common infrastructure. FinnONTO has been instrumental in the development of various information services based on ontologies and open linked data. The project has not only developed ontologies and ontology services but has also demonstrated their usage with practical applications on the Semantic Web. Examples of this include the semantic portal MuseumFinland (<http://www.seco.tkk.fi/applications/museumfinland/>) and HealthFinland (<http://www.seco.tkk.fi/applications/tervesuomi/>) – both of which won the prestigious international Semantic Web Challenge Award from the research community – and the massive cultural heritage portal and content service "CultureSampo – Finnish Culture on the Semantic Web 2.0" (<http://www.seco.tkk.fi/applications/kulttuurisampo/>) which is based on the whole range of KOKO-ontologies interlinked with various international vocabularies. A common denominator between many of these initiatives is the integration of heterogeneous (meta)data arriving from multiple sources. For the time being, we do not know how these services will be maintained after the project has been completed. Nevertheless, they have brought a significant part of Finnish culture onto the Semantic Web, and it would be a mistake to let them wither away.

Future

FinnONTO 2.0 will continue until Spring 2012. However, the project team, the National Library and the Ministry of Education are already planning how things will continue. The common aim is to guarantee that both the national ontologies and their technical basis (the ONKI service and its server environment) will be accessible in the future. Since the vocabularies themselves are available for free, their costs must be covered centrally.

Traditionally, the National Library of Finland has worked with other libraries to maintain its thesauri. The extension of the service to ontologies, and the resulting Semantic Web connection, mean that the number of potential partners has grown exponentially. These partners include not only the entire public sector – as requested by the information architecture – but also, for instance, Semantic Web researchers and companies utilizing Semantic Web technologies. The co-ordination of the development work and finding all the interested parties has become a challenging task, but it is most likely one that the library will relish. The Semantic Web has given new life to controlled vocabularies and created new possibilities, the like of which the National Library could not even dream of in the past. However, developing YSO and creating a solid basis for the Finnish Semantic Web would have been more difficult, or even impossible, without the libraries' decision, more than 25 years ago to create the Finnish General Thesaurus.

Juha Hakala, The National Library of Finland

Katri Seppälä, The Finnish Terminology Centre TSK

Eero Hyvönen, Aalto University and University of Helsinki

More information:

FinnONTO-project home page: <http://www.seco.tkk.fi/projects/finnonto/>

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Jyrki I Iva

HIGHLIGHTS

Building research assessment tools on a national level

The National Library of Finland has been one of the participating organizations in the planning of a new nationwide current research information system. According to the proposal of the JURE II working group published in June 2011, the new system is to be in use by the year 2014. The system will eventually comprise all of the Finnish universities, including the universities of applied sciences, the state research institutes and the central hospitals.

From numbers to metadata

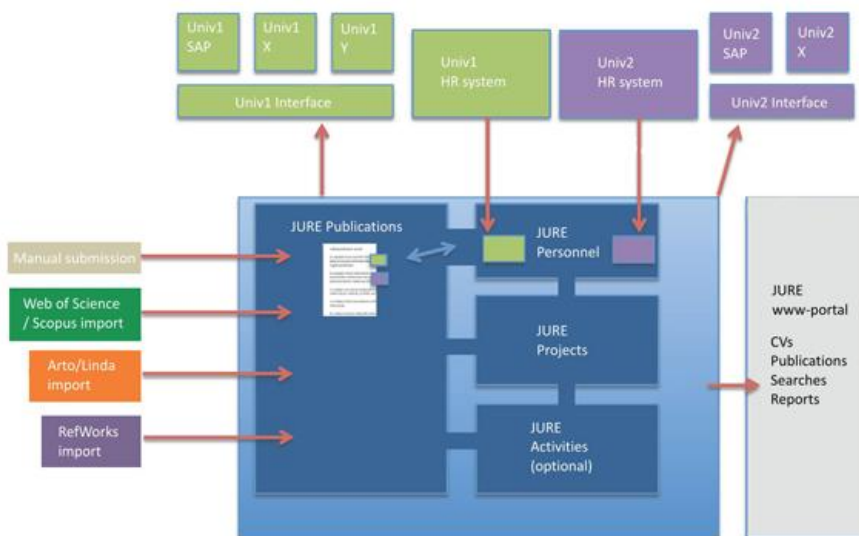
The main motivation behind the planning of a new current research information system is connected to the research assessment needs of the Ministry of Culture and Education. There are plans to use publication data as one of the main criteria for the funding of Finnish universities and other research organizations. To facilitate this goal, the quality of publication data collected on the national level must be significantly improved.

For many years the universities in Finland, including the universities of applied sciences, have reported the number of research publications by their faculty members to the national databases KOTA and AMKOTA. However, very different tools and methods have been used in this reporting. To improve the reliability and transparency of the data, it has been decided that, starting from the year 2011, the universities will have to provide the metadata on their publications to the Finnish Ministry of Culture and Education as well as to national databases.

The JURE project (<http://raketti.csc.fi/en/jure>) started in 2009, and its main purpose is the construction of a nationwide publication database. The project is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Education and coordinated by the CSC – IT Center for Science. The CSC is one of the subprojects of the larger RAKETTI project, which seeks to "improve the quality, compatibility, and usability of information and IT solutions in the steering and monitoring of higher education and in the management of higher education institutions". The JURE project is led by a steering group, which includes two representatives from the National Library. In addition, specialists from the National Library have participated in several working groups within the project.



The JURE project



Architecture of the national current research information system (preliminary draft). It will be connected to the information systems of the participating organizations via standardized technical interfaces, and it will also support the harvesting of publication metadata from external sources.

Towards a common national system

Within the JURE project, there has been a great deal of discussion about the construction of the planned national publication database. The key issue has been the degree of centralization needed for a national system. Currently, most Finnish universities have their own local publication databases or research information systems. The question is whether it would be better to build the

national system on the existing databases, meaning that the publication data would first be registered in a local database and then collected in a national system, or whether it would be better to create a completely new national system that would replace the existing local solutions. Although setting up of a distributed system based on collecting material from the existing databases would require less work and fewer resources, there are strong incentives for a more centralized model, which seems to be the preferred choice for a long-term solution.

The JURE project is simultaneously working towards two goals. The JURE I working group is planning a short-term publication database for the next few years. This solution will be based on a simple distributed model, which will require only modest investments from the participating organizations. Starting from the year 2011, the Ministry of Culture and Education requires from all Finnish universities publication metadata, not just the number of publications in each of the publication-type categories. Although the normalization of the metadata will require some work, the metadata will be combined with publication metadata harvested from international research databases, and the combined data will be used as one of the starting points in the planning of a new funding model for the universities.

The JURE II working group has been planning a long-term solution for a national current research information system. The final report of the working group was published in June 2011. In the report the working group proposes the building of a centralized nationwide publication database, with optional extra modules for those organizations that would like to gather data on other research activities as well. The proposal includes a preliminary budget, which highlights the benefits of a centralized national system. Although the inclusion of the Finnish universities is considered the first priority, it is likely that the system will be extended to include the scientific output of the universities of applied sciences, the state research institutes and the central hospitals. If the ministries, universities and other organizations agree on the project, then the new system is projected to be in use by the year 2014.

Harvesting metadata from external sources

One of the key requirements for the nationwide current research information system is that it should be capable of ingesting publication metadata harvested from external sources. Currently, most of the publication databases in use at Finnish universities do not support the harvesting of metadata. The most significant exception is Tuhat (<https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/>), the recently launched new current research information system of the University of Helsinki. Tuhat is based on Pure, a software product developed by Atira (Denmark).

Most of the articles published by Finnish scientists in leading international journals are already being registered in two large commercial databases, the Web of Science (owned by Thomson-Reuters) and Scopus (owned by Elsevier). Each of these databases supports metadata harvesting, although there are contractual restrictions on the use of the data. It would make sense to utilize this metadata in the national current research information system, as it would decrease the amount of local work needed to produce the database and also improve the quality of the data.

FinELib has carried out negotiations with both Thomson-Reuters and Elsevier for the usage rights of the metadata. There have been simultaneous negotiations for two different kinds of deals. On the one hand, the Ministry of Culture and Education wanted to have the full Web of Science raw data for their analyses of longer-term trends in Finnish publication activity. On the other hand, the use of the publishers' metadata in the local organizational databases and in the national database required amendments to existing agreements between the organizations and the publishers.

For contractual reasons, the use of the Web of Science and/or Scopus data involves a definite trade-off: although it offers important benefits, it may also lead to serious restrictions on the use and re-use of publication data.

National databases as sources for Finnish metadata?

International databases such as the Web of Science and Scopus do not cover the national Finnish publication channels. Nevertheless, these channels are very important for some fields of research, and they account for a large portion of Finnish scholarly output as a whole. It has been suggested that the metadata for many of these publications could be harvested from the National Library databases. Norway provides a good illustration of the possibilities of this approach: the number of articles harvested from the Norwegian national article database accounts for 25 per cent of all articles in the Norwegian national publication database.

The National Library of Finland has investigated the possibilities of using the national databases Linda and Arto as sources for the metadata. Linda is the union database of all Finnish university libraries, while Arto is a national article database. According to the report of this investigation, the databases could be used as metadata sources, but there are also challenges and developmental needs in such an approach.



Photo by Kari Timonen

The obvious challenges are the scope and timeliness of the metadata production. Arto is especially illuminating in this respect. The cataloguing of scholarly publications in Arto is currently done on a volunteer basis by the participating libraries, each of which has pledged to catalogue the contents of certain journals. An obvious problem is that there are many journals that currently are not being catalogued. Another challenge is that the Arto work is usually not the primary duty of any single librarian, and other duties are often deemed more urgent. Consequently there are often delays (of weeks or months) before the articles in a new issue of a journal are catalogued in Arto. From the point of view of a current research information system, it is important to obtain the metadata of new articles as quickly as possible, because otherwise the information may have to be added manually, leading to unnecessary duplication of work.

Currently, databases such as Arto and Linda are mainly intended for libraries and information seekers. The records in these databases lack clearly defined affiliation and publication-type data, which are essential for research assessment and bibliometric purposes. Adding this data would mean extra work for the cataloguers, even if such information were available in the publication itself (which is not always the case).

The investigation made by the National Library of Finland suggested that co-operation with Finnish scholarly publishers would help to solve these problems. The ideal solution would be to get as much publication metadata as possible directly from the publishers and journal editors. Obviously, this is not a simple task. Compared to major international publishers, the Finnish scholarly publishers are tiny. Most of them publish only one or two journals, and they operate on a more or less limited budget. Few of them have the kind of information system that could be used for metadata harvesting.

Although the publishers or journal editors would have to do extra work to provide the metadata for their articles, it seems fairly likely that many, if not most of them, would find it worthwhile, since to do so significantly increases the visibility of their publications among the key audiences. Of course, some technical development is also needed to make this possible. Arto is currently a Voyager database, and since the Voyager cataloguing client is not a suitable option for non-librarians, a new ingest system that works outside Voyager is required. The ingest system should be designed to be as easy to use and highly optimized for the task as possible.

Rating the channels of publication

The Ministry of Education and Culture has also funded the Publication Forum project, which is coordinated by the Federation of Learned Societies. The project will produce ratings of 22,000 scholarly journals, publication series and publishers by the end of the year 2011, following the model in use in several other countries, including Norway and Denmark. In practice this work is being done by 23 panels, the members of which are leading scientists, mostly university professors, in each field. The project has a close connection to JURE, as the ratings produced by the project will also be used in the national publication database.

The aim of the Publication Forum is to identify the scientific publishing channels used by Finnish scholars and classify them into two or three categories. The first category (level 1) consists of channels recognized as scientific. The second category (level 2) contains the leading publication channels in each field. It has been agreed that this group may not contain more than 20 per cent of all scientific publication channels in each field. In addition, there has also been discussion of whether there is a need for a level 3, which would contain a small number of truly outstanding publication channels. Some of the panels have been less than enthusiastic about this idea, and the decision on the use of this level has been left to each panel.

Not unexpectedly, one of the issues that has generated discussion is the treatment of Finnish publication channels in the ratings. One of the aims of the whole rating exercise is to boost the level of ambition among Finnish scholars by making it more rewarding for them to publish their research findings in top international journals. However, in some fields a large proportion of the entire scholarly output is published through Finnish publication channels, and it may be very tempting for the panelists to take this into account in their ratings. Of course, in some fields such as Finnish language and Finnish history, it can be argued that some of the Finnish journals or publishers are among the leading publication channels, even from an international perspective, as they reach most of the members of the research community active in these fields.

Jyrki Ilva is an Information Systems Specialist at the National Library of Finland.

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HIGHLIGHTS

The 20-year celebration of The Centre for Preservation and Digitisation

The National Library Centre for Preservation and Digitisation celebrated its 20th year in September 2010. "The impact of the digitisation of Finnish cultural heritage is massive both culturally and socially", said the Director of the Centre Majlis Bremer-Laamanen. "The free text search for the public has been available for ten years now. In the future, the re-use of articles and photos will be very important for researchers." The Centre is located in Mikkeli.



Twenty years of digitisation and preservation in Mikkeli were celebrated in the Cupola Hall.

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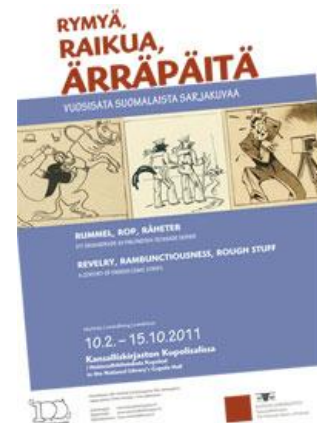
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A century of Finnish comic strips

The exhibition *Revelry, Rambunctiousness, Rough Stuff* in the National Library's Cupola Hall celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Finnish comics. The comprehensive exhibition reviews the development of Finnish comics from the early stages of 1800s.

The exhibition has been produced in cooperation with the Finnish Comics Society, The Finnish Comics Professionals, The Comics Information Centre, and an Anniversary expert group.

The exhibition will circulate through libraries and cultural facilities throughout Finland, including location in Turku, Tampere, Joensuu and Lapland.



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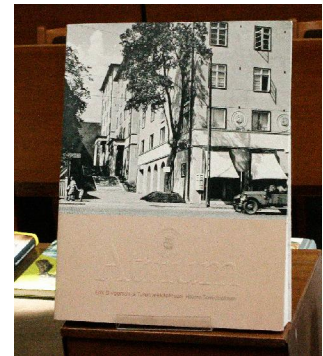
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The most beautiful books of the year 2010

The most beautiful books of the year are traditionally chosen at the National Library of Finland in March. The Book of the Year was selected by the Finnish Books Art Committee. The winner in the year 2010 was *Atrium – Erik Bryggman ja Turun arkkitehtuuri* [Atrium – Erik Bryggman and the Architecture of Turku] by Helena Soiri-Snellman. The book's graphic design is by Dog Design.


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International Cooperation

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International interaction Organisations and bodies

Alto Editorial Board, metadata development team

Bibliotheca Baltica, cooperation body for libraries in the Baltic Sea region

Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden, Germany

CDNL, Conference of Directors of National Libraries

CENL, Conference of European National Libraries

CERL, Consortium of European Research Libraries

Cobra+, coordination body for European national library project cooperation

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, developer group and steering group of the Dublin Core Standard

EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

Eesti Rahvusraamatukog, the Estonian National Library

eIFL (electronic information for libraries)

ELAG, European Library Automation Group

EROMM, European Register of Microform Masters

European ICOLC, International Coalition of Library Consortia

The European Library, portal for European national libraries

Europeana, the European Digital Library

- Europeana Travel project

FAIFE, Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression

IAML, International Association of Music Libraries

IASA, International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, head of the Nordic division

ICA, International Cartographic Association

IFLA, International Federation of Library Associations, participation in several divisions and working groups

IGELU, International Group of Ex Libris Users, various groups

IIPC, International Internet Preservation Consortium

ISBN, working group to revise the system of International Standard Book Numbering

ISO, International Organisation for Standardisation, several working groups under Technical Committee 46

ISSN Governing Board, International ISSN Centre, vice chair

Journal of Archival Organization, editorial staff member

LIBER, Association of European Research Libraries

Member States' Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation

NISO, US National Information Standards Organisation

NORON, Nordic Conference of State and National Library Directors

Russiainfo project group, Ministry of Education and Culture



SVUC, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue

United Kingdom Sibelius Society

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Facts and Statistics 2010

- Visitors: 173,000
- Local loans: 489,154
- Interlibrary loans to other libraries: 1,790 and from other libraries: 1,485
- Use of digitized material: 6,5 million downloaded pages
- Use of FinELib materials: 19,6 million downloaded articles
- Information service requests: 1,800; information retrieval advice was given to 308 persons, and guided tours of the library were conducted for 1190 persons
- The accession of collections was approximately 1,000 meters of shelving; at the end of the year the collection totaled 111,000 meters of shelving
- The accession of the National Collection was 155,100 units; of those 55,790 are uncatalogued publications
- The accession of monographs and series in other collections was 10,690 volumes
- The sound recording collection grew by 3,268 legal deposit copies and purchases, the sheet music collection by 229 publications
- The collections totaled 3 million books and serials, 685,000 microfilms and microfiches, and over 4 million units of other items
- The online archive contains 494,5 million units
- The number of digitized printed products' pages exceeded 1.1 million items; there were 2,275 microfilm rolls; the number of conserved units was 12,380
- Databases of the library's own collections contain almost 2.7 million references, a growth of 95,000
- Fennica, the National Bibliography database, contains 892,132 (0.9 million) bibliographic entries
- Viola, the National Discography database, contains 900,605 (0.9 million) discographer entries
- Linda, the Union Catalogue of the Finnish University Libraries, contains 5.8 million references
- Staff: 300 full-time employees
- The Library has four service points, two in Helsinki, one in Mikkeli and one in Urajärvi



Loan services

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Local loans	553,000	538,000	512,700	499,700	489,154
Interlibrary services	4,000	4,200	4,400	3,490	3,275
Total	557,000	542,200	521,500	503,190	492,429

Databases of the Library's own collections, number of titles

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
National Bibliography Fennica	808,100	827,100	848,000	868,100	892,132
National Discography Viola	715,759	759,764	794,100	839,100	900,605
Other collections (Helka)	840,000	877,700	852,400	867,000	909,147

Premises 2010

Total	25 500 m2
User service areas	4 600 m2
Collection areas	19 600 m2
Other areas	700 m2

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